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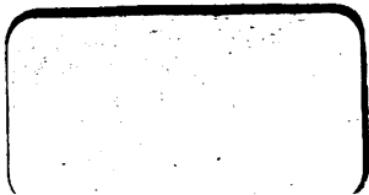
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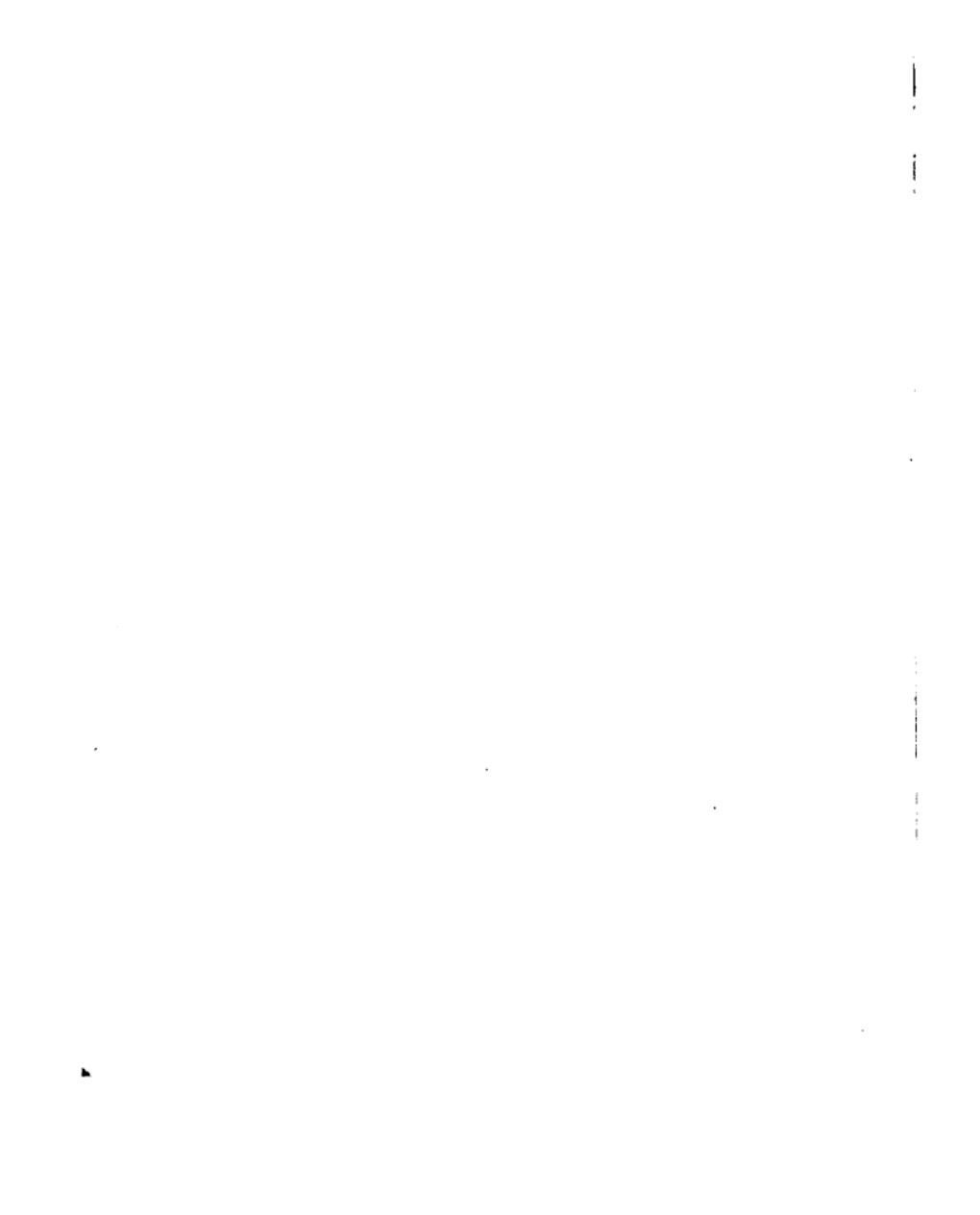
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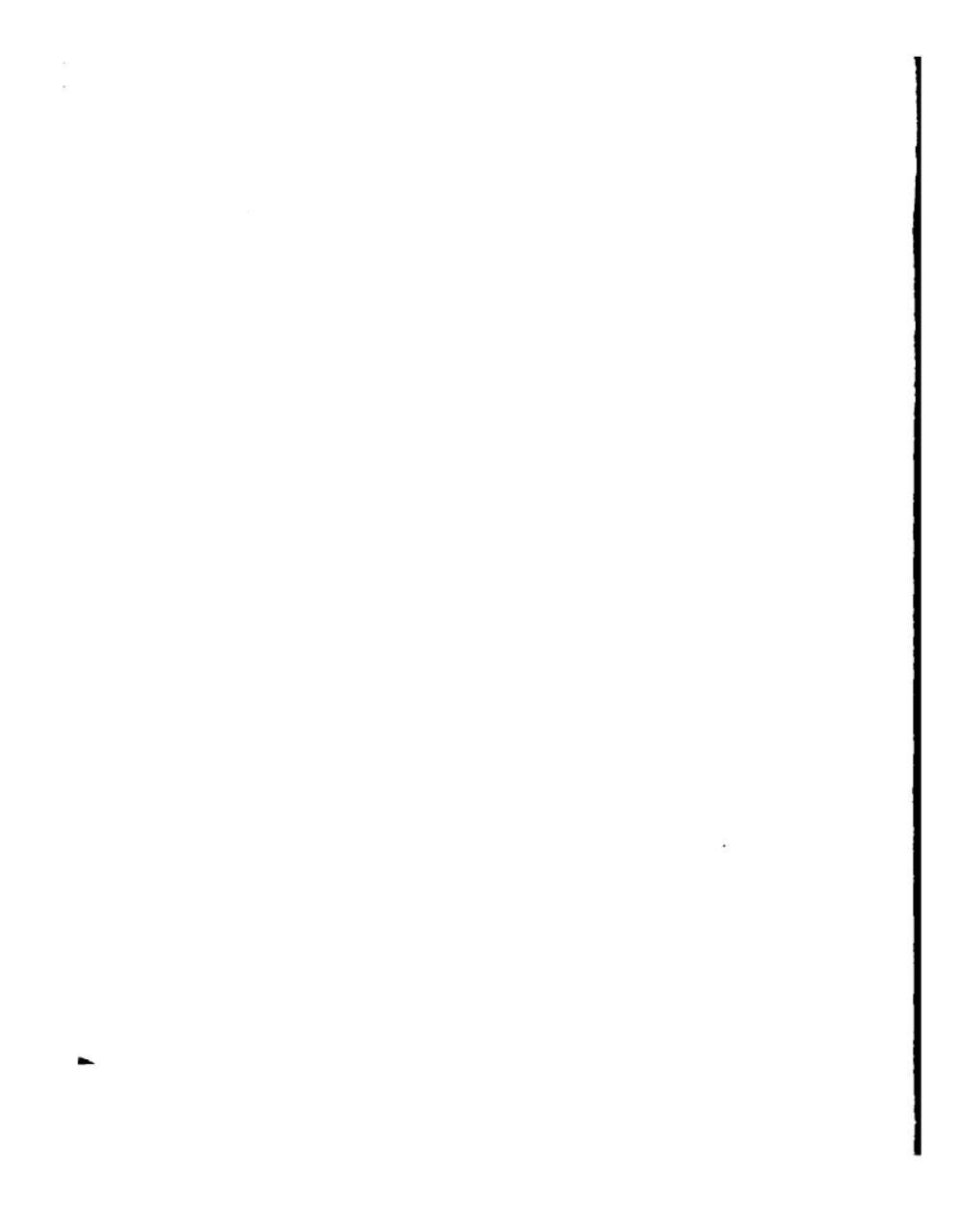
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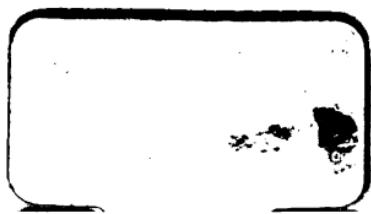


COS
(COND)
Shoberl









Mr. Shoberl

THE
PUBLIC BUILDINGS
10907 OF
LONDON & WESTMINSTER
DESCRIBED.

BY F. SHOBERL.

WITH ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON:
JOHN HARRIS, ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD.
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PUBLIC BUILDINGS
OF THE
CITY OF LONDON
DESCRIBED.

INTRODUCTION.

LONDON, or as it is emphatically called the City, comprehends that portion of the metropolis situated on the east side of Temple Bar, and including Aldgate, Bishopsgate Street, and Cripplegate. Its civil government is vested, by charters or grants from different sovereigns, in its own corporation, consisting

of the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the Aldermen, and the members of the Common Council. It is divided into twenty-five wards, and those into two hundred and thirty-six precincts, each of which sends a representative to the Common Council, who is chosen annually by the householders being freemen of the respective wards. The Aldermen are elected for life by the householders of the twenty-five wards, one for each; and the Lord Mayor, who is the chief magistrate of the City, is chosen annually in the following manner: On the 29th of September, the livery or free-men of London, assembled in Guildhall, elect by show of hands two Aldermen, who are presented to a Court composed of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, by whom one of the two Aldermen, so elected,—generally the first in seniority,—is declared to be Lord May

elect. The two Sheriffs, whose jurisdiction extends not only over the metropolis, but over the whole county of Middlesex, are chosen yearly by the livery.

Under the early Norman sovereigns, the chief magistrate of the City of London had the title of Portgrave. That of Mayor is said to have been first assumed by Henry Fitz-Alwyn, in the early part of the reign of Richard I, who granted a new charter to the City. At what precise time the title of Lord was prefixed is unknown. The powers and prerogatives of the Lord Mayor are very extensive and important. His authority does not cease on the death of the King; when he is regarded as the principal officer in the kingdom, and takes his place in the Privy Council, until the new sovereign is proclaimed. He is the King's representative in the civil govern-

ment of the City, first commissioner of the lieutenancy, perpetual coroner within the city and liberties of London and the borough of Southwark, chief justice of the jail delivery of Newgate, judge of the court of wardmote at the election of aldermen, conservator of the rivers Thames and Medway, perpetual commissioner in all affairs relating to the river Lea, and chief butler of the kingdom at coronations. No corporation business is valid without his authority; and without his presence the election of a successor would be void.

Having been elected in the manner already described, the Lord Mayor enters upon his office on the 9th of the November following, which is commonly called Lord Mayor's Day. On this occasion, the Lord Mayor in his state coach, the Sheriffs and Aldermen in their carriages, and the Livery of the different Com-

panies in their gowns, go in procession from Guildhall to Blackfriars Bridge, where his lordship embarks in the state-barge belonging to the Corporation, and the members of the several Companies in their own magnificent barges, and proceed up the river to Westminster. Here they land, and go in procession to the Court of Exchequer, where the Lord Mayor is sworn in, and the Chief Baron delivers a solemn address to the new head of the City. The procession then pursues its way to all the other Courts of Law, and the Recorder invites the Judges to dinner at Guildhall ; after which it returns in the barges to Blackfriars Bridge. Great numbers of boats usually join the aquatic procession, and both sides of the river are lined with spectators, who hail the barges as they pass. The magnificence of the various barges, the bands

of music on board them, and the occasional salutes of guns on the shores, combine to produce a splendid and exhilarating scene. On landing again at Blackfriars, the procession returns to Guildhall, where a grand dinner and ball are provided. These are generally attended by the ministers of the Crown, the great officers of state, many of the nobility, and about a thousand of the most opulent citizens male and female, who dine in the great hall, which is fitted up for their reception. The total expense of this feast is generally about 3000*l.* which is defrayed jointly by the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs.

The Aldermen are properly the subordinate governors of their respective wards under the jurisdiction of the Lord Mayor. Persons refusing to undertake the office after they are chosen render themselves liable to a fine.

All the Aldermen hold their wardmote for the election of ward officers, and other business of the ward. In the management of these affairs each Alderman has his deputy, appointed by him out of the common councilmen of his ward ; and, in some of the wards that are large, the Alderman has two deputies. The Aldermen are perpetual justices of the peace within the City.

Besides the twenty-five wards in the City, there is a twenty-sixth, composed of part of the borough of Southwark incorporated with the City in the reign of Edward III, and called Bridge Ward Without. This ward is also governed by an Alderman, but it has no representatives in the court of common council ; and as the City has not enforced its prerogatives in this quarter, the duty of Alderman is merely nominal. For this reason it has been

customary on a vacancy to remove the senior Alderman, who is called the Father of the City, to this ward, as an honourable sinecure, which relieves him from the fatigues usually attendant on the office in the other wards of the City.

The Common Council are chosen in the same manner as the Aldermen, only with this difference, that as the Lord Mayor presides in the wardmote, and is judge of the poll at the election of an Alderman, so the Alderman is judge of the poll at the election of a Common Councilman. No act can be performed in the name of the City of London without their concurrence; but they cannot assemble without a summons from the Lord Mayor, whose duty, however, it is to convene a Common Council whenever a meeting shall be demanded on extraordinary occasions.

The members of the court of Common Council annually elect six Aldermen and twelve Commoners for letting the City lands; they also appoint a Committee of four Aldermen and eight Commoners to transact the affairs of Gresham College, who generally meet at Mercers' Hall, according to the direction of the Lord Mayor, who is always one of the number. Besides appointing these and other Committees, they annually choose, by virtue of a royal grant, a governor, deputy, and assistants for the management of the extensive estates belonging to the City of London in the north of Ireland.

The principal officers of the Corporation of London are the Recorder, the Chamberlain, the Common Serjeant, the Town-clerk, the Comptroller, the Remembrancer, and the Solicitor.

The Livery is a numerous and respectable

body composed of the freemen of the different Companies, in whom is vested the right of electing the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, the four Members of Parliament for the City, the Chamberlain, the Bridgemasters, and several other officers. Householders, though not free-men of the City, have also the right of voting for Members of Parliament.

The jurisdiction of civil judicature in London is confined to the City and its liberties. No citizen can be impleaded out of its boundaries; consequently the Courts of Queen's Bench and Common Pleas are held in Guild-hall, where the Lord Chief Justice and the other Judges hold their sittings in term.

A description of all the edifices which adorn this portion of the British capital; an account, however brief, of all its public structures,—its

churches, its bridges, its prisons, its hospitals, the halls of its companies, and last, though not least, its docks,—would far exceed the limits allowed for the following notices, which will therefore be confined to those subjects that have been selected as most suitable for illustration.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

THE most remarkable building that London can boast is certainly the Cathedral of St. Paul, situated nearly in the centre of that portion of the metropolis which is called, by way of eminence, *the City*. The first church erected on this spot was built by Ethelbert, King of Kent, in 610; and one of the followers of St. Augustin, the apostle of the English, who had been sent by Pope Gregory the Great to convert the Saxons, was appointed Bishop of London.

The first structure was destroyed by fire some time prior to the year 1083, a period of great calamity to the city, the greater part of it being consumed by the conflagration, when land there sold for a shilling an acre, and it

was almost depopulated by a malignant fever. After this event, Bishop Maurice commenced the magnificent structure which immediately preceded the present Cathedral,—a work, says Stow, “that men of that time judged wold never have bin finished, it was to them so wonderful for length and breadth.”

In 1135, this new church was greatly damaged by a fire that extended its ravages from London Bridge to the church of the Danes. This building was not completed till 1283. It was in the form of a cross, having in the middle of the roof a stately spire five hundred and thirty-four feet high. The total length of the structure was six hundred and ninety feet, the breadth one hundred and thirty; its western part was one hundred and two feet high, and the eastern eighty-eight.

On the 1st of February 1444, the steeple was set on fire in the middle by lightning ; and again destroyed, together with the roof of the building, by a similar accident in June 1561. The roof was speedily repaired by means of public contributions ; but the steeple was not rebuilt till 1631, when the whole church was repaired and enlarged under the superintendence of Inigo Jones, at the cost of upwards of 100,000*l.* collected for that purpose.

During the civil war, which soon afterwards broke out, St. Paul's suffered along with other sacred edifices. The revenues of the dean and chapter were seized by order of the parliament ; the marble pavement was torn up, the stalls in the choir were taken away, the monuments defaced, and sawpits dug in the church, which was frequently used as quarters for horse-

soldiers ; while parts were suffered to tumble down for want of repair. In this ruinous state the edifice remained till it was utterly destroyed by the great fire in 1666.

Among the various appendages of the old Cathedral, the most famous for several ages was St. Paul's Cross, which stood on the north side of the church-yard, and was used for various purposes, both religious and secular. It is conjectured to have been originally an ordinary cross, and coeval with the church. The period of its conversion into a pulpit cross is uncertain. It was destroyed by an earthquake in 1382 ; and, though several bishops collected considerable sums by offering the usual bait of indulgences (pardon for sins committed or to be committed) to all contributors, it was not rebuilt till 1449. It was a pulpit of hexagonal form, constructed of timber, covered with

lead, raised upon a flight of stone steps, and surmounted by a large cross.

At this Cross, by command of Richard Duke of Gloucester, the celebrated Dr. Shaw first broached the project of that usurper to assume the crown. Here Jane Shore, the unfortunate favourite of Edward IV, was compelled, in the decline of life, to do penance. From this Cross was proclaimed the marriage between James IV. of Scotland, and Margaret, daughter of Henry VII, in 1502, when Te Deum was sung, twelve bonfires made, and twelve hogsheads of Gascoigne wine given to the populace, "to be drunken of all men free lie." Here likewise the first English translation of the Bible was publicly burned by order of Bishop Stokesley; and the Pope's sentence against Luther was promulgated in 1521 by Cardinal Wolsey. The ceremony was followed

by a sermon delivered by Fisher, bishop of Rochester, during which many of the German reformer's books were burned in the church-yard.

When Henry VIII. had determined to renounce the pope's authority, an order from the King in council was issued, commanding that such as should preach "from Sonday to Sonday at Paule's Crosse" should declare to the people, that neither the pope nor any of his predecessors were anything more than merely bishops of Rome, the paramount jurisdiction which they claimed being only usurped, and "under sufferance of princes." His daughter Mary, on her accession, appointed several of her ablest divines to preach here in furtherance of her design to restore the supremacy of the pope. Several disturbances were the consequence, and attempts were even made to

assassinate the preacher in the midst of his discourse.

On the accession of Queen Elizabeth, the doctrines of the Reformation were again promulgated from this Cross by divines, some of whom subsequently attained to the highest dignities of the church. Here, by the royal command, a sermon of thanksgiving was preached after the signal defeat of the Invincible Armada ; and another after the execution of the unfortunate Earl of Essex, for the purpose of stigmatizing his memory : but this ungenerous procedure is supposed to have originated with some of the Queen's council rather than Elizabeth herself, whose remorse for having spilt the blood of her favourite is known to have accelerated her own dissolution.

In March 1620, James I. attended a sermon preached at St. Paul's Cross, by Bishop King,

to promote the rebuilding of the Cathedral ; and religious discourses continued to be delivered there till the time of the civil war, when it was demolished by order of the parliament in 1643.

After the great fire of 1666, St. Paul's Cathedral had lain some years in ruin, before any preparations were made to rebuild it. At length, in 1674, letters patent were issued under the great seal, appointing commissioners for superintending the work, and directing Sir Christopher Wren to prepare a suitable design.

The first stone of the new building was laid in 1675, and the work was completed in 1710 ; being finished by one architect, under one bishop of London, and by one mason. The expense was defrayed by voluntary contributions, to which King Charles II. gave 1000*l.* per annum out of his privy purse ; by the imposi-

tion of a duty on coals, which produced 5,000*l.* a year; and by parliamentary grants; the whole amounting to 736,752*l.*

This magnificent edifice is built of Portland stone wrought in rustic. The lower division is adorned with a range of double pilasters of the Corinthian order; while the upper is decorated by others of the composite order. The west front, facing Ludgate Hill, consists of a magnificent portico, of four double columns, affording access to a large centre door for solemn occasions, and two side doors for common use. The portico supports a pediment enriched with a piece of sculpture, by Bird, representing the conversion of St. Paul, whose statue crowns the apex, having that of St. Peter on his right, and St. James on his left. Two stately towers flank the portico. The north and south entrances are also adorned by porticoes, each con-

sisting of a demi-cupola, supported by six Corinthian columns ; and the flights of steps leading to the three entrances are of black marble.

At the east end is a fine piece of sculpture in honour of William III. The whole is surmounted by a dome, terminating in a lantern, ball, and cross.

The form of the Cathedral is that of a cross. Its length within the walls is five hundred feet ; its breadth from north to south within the doors of the porticoes two hundred and twenty-three feet, and at the grand entrance one hundred ; its internal height one hundred and ten feet ; the diameter of the dome one hundred and eighty-eight feet. The height of the west towers is two hundred and eighty feet ; and to the top of the cross above the dome three hundred and forty.

The interior is disposed into three aisles. The choir, in which divine service is performed on Sundays and great festivals, has on each side thirty stalls, beautifully carved ; besides the bishop's throne on the south, and the lord mayor's on the north side. The organ gallery rests upon Corinthian columns of blue and white marble ; the organ itself cost 2,000*l.* The floor of the church and choir is paved with marble as far as the rails of the altar ; within the rails the pavement is of porphyry, polished, and laid in geometrical figures. The choir, its adjoining aisles, and the organ gallery, are inclosed with iron rails and gates. Besides the choir, there is a chapel for morning prayer on week days ; and opposite to it is the consistory ; each having a magnificent screen of carved wainscot.

Vast as the interior of this church appears to the stranger on entering, it is immediately

underneath the dome that, on casting his eye upward, he is more particularly struck with its grandeur. The interior of the dome is adorned with a series of paintings by Sir James Thornhill, illustrative of the most remarkable events in the life of St. Paul ; but these are at so great a distance from the spectator below, that the effect is there lost, and they are seen to the best advantage from what is called the Whispering Gallery.

Near the south entrance are the stairs leading to the upper part of the Cathedral, and to its curiosities. The first object to be seen in the ascent is the Library, a handsome room fitted up with shelves, and having a gallery running all round it. The floor, consisting of two thousand three hundred and seventy-six small square pieces of oak, inlaid, without nail or peg to fasten them, is worthy of notice.

The collection of books, though neither large nor valuable, contains some manuscripts of very high antiquity.

In the room where the model of Sir Christopher Wren's first design for the new Cathedral is deposited, are also preserved the flags and heraldic insignia used at the funeral of the great Nelson. The clock-work and the great bell in the south tower are well worth seeing. This bell weighs four tons and a quarter, and is ten feet in diameter; its fine deep tones when the hammer of the clock strikes the hours upon it have been heard at the distance of twenty miles. It is never tolled but on the death of some member of the royal family; or for the bishop of London, the dean of St. Paul's, or the lord mayor.

The Whispering Gallery, which is reached by an ascent of two hundred and eighty steps

from the floor of the Cathedral, encompasses the dome, being about one hundred and forty yards in circumference. This gallery exhibits an amusing instance of the extraordinary effect of the reverberation of sound. A stone seat runs round it along the foot of the wall. Exactly opposite to the door of entrance, several yards of this seat are covered with matting; a person sitting on this part can hear distinctly a whisper uttered at the distance of the whole diameter of the gallery, and the mere shutting of the door produces a sound like thunder. The effect is not so perfect in any other situation.

The prospect from every part of the ascent to the top of the church, wherever an opening presents itself, is extremely striking; but no point commands so complete a view of the metropolis and the adjacent country as the Stone

Gallery which encircles the outside of the dome, and the gallery at the foot of the lantern above the dome, which is called the Golden Gallery. The ascent to the latter is by five hundred and thirty-four steps, the lower half of which is extremely easy, but the upper in some places dark and unpleasant. In this ascent may be seen the brick cone which supports the lantern ; and the timber-work that strengthens the outer dome, and the cone within it, is also deserving of notice.

The ascent to the ball, consisting of six hundred and sixteen steps, is a labour which few undertake. The internal diameter of the ball is six feet, and eight persons may sit within it. It is of copper, and weighs five thousand six hundred pounds ; and the cross which surmounts it three thousand three hundred and sixty.

The interest attached to this magnificent edifice has been of late years heightened by numerous monumental memorials erected in it, at the national expense, in honour of persons eminent for their public services. Some of these are plain full-length figures, placed on marble pedestals, with suitable inscriptions. Such are those of Dr. Samuel Johnson, and Howard the celebrated philanthropist, by the elder Bacon; and of Sir William Jones by the son of that eminent artist. Here too are numerous monuments commemorative of distinguished naval and military officers, many of whom have fallen in battle: General Abercrombie, Lord Howe, Sir John Moore, Generals Dundas, Picton, Hay, Mackenzie, and Langworth, Marquess Cornwallis, Captains Burgess, Faulkner, Miller, Moss, and Riou, Westcott, Duff, and Hardinge; Colonel Cado-

gan ; Lord Nelson, and his excellent coadjutor Lord Collingwood.

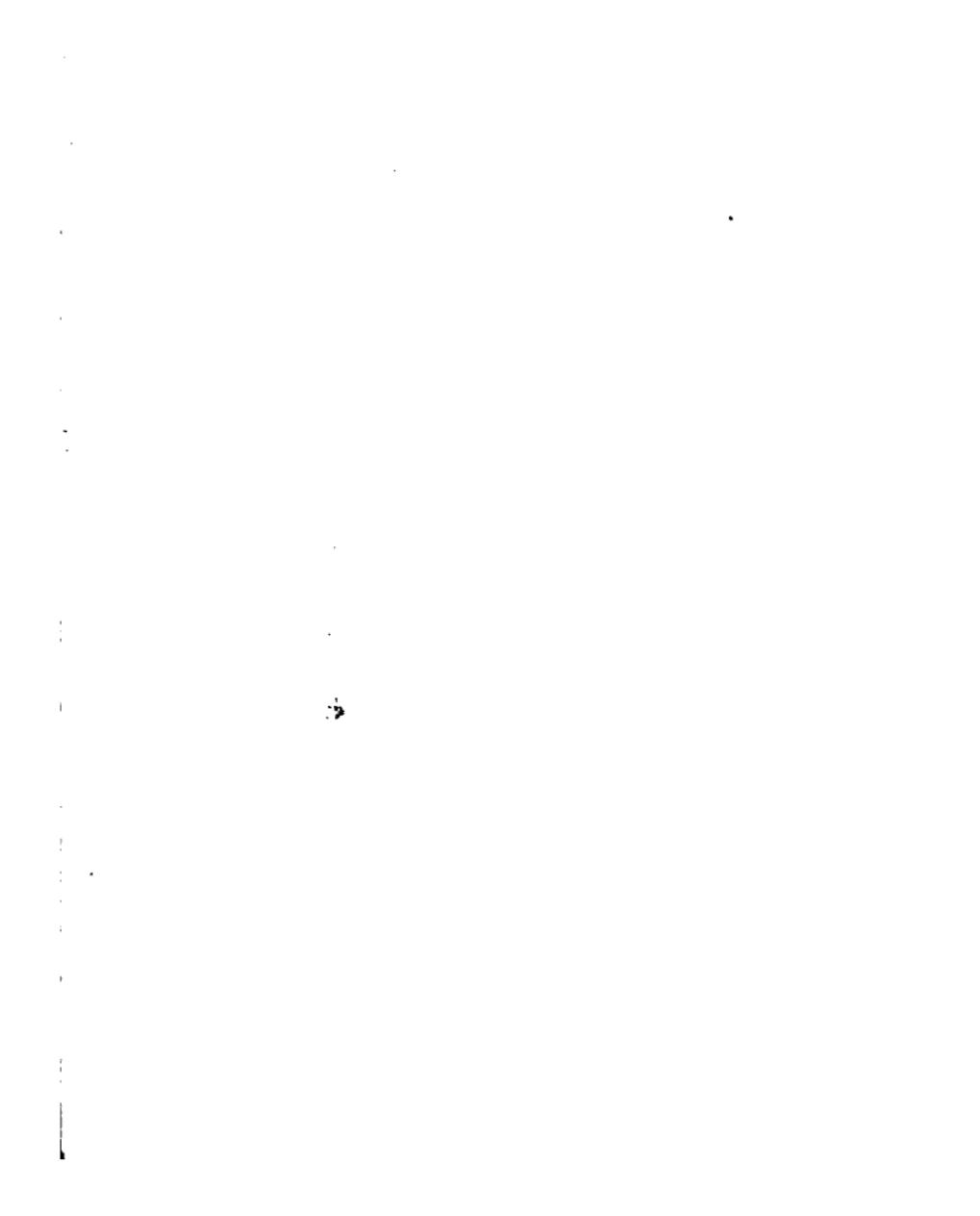
The vaults or crypts are of the same extent as the church, and about seventeen feet high, where the coffins are buried in the earth, and not laid on the surface as in other vaults. Vast piers and immense arches divide these vaults into three avenues : that in the centre is totally dark ; but the others are lighted at distant intervals by grated windows, which afford partial gleams of light with deep intervening shades. A portion of the north aisle at the east end, where, beneath the old Cathedral, was a church dedicated to St. Faith, is railed in and used for interments. Here, covered by a plain stone raised about eighteen inches above the pavement, repose the remains of Sir Christopher Wren, the founder of this magnificent structure. A marble tablet on the wall above,

placed there by his son, bears a simple but sublime inscription in Latin, which may be thus rendered: "Beneath lies Christopher Wren, the architect of this Church and City, who lived more than ninety years, not for himself only, but for the public good. Reader! dost thou seek his monument? Look around!" When it is considered that, besides St. Paul's, that extraordinary man built fifty-three other churches in the new city which sprung up after the great fire; that he erected the Monument and the Custom House, the Palace at Hampton Court, Chelsea and Greenwich Hospitals, the Theatre at Oxford, Trinity College Library, and the Chapel of Emanuel College, Cambridge, and the frontispiece of the Middle Temple, Fleet Street; and that he superintended all the renovations in Westminster Abbey from 1693; who can reflect without pro-

found astonishment that this inscription of filial piety should even at this day be the only record of his pre-eminent talents ?

This crypt is also the burial-place of those eminent painters, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Barry, Opie, and West ; Dr. Newton, bishop of Bristol ; Dr. Boyce, the musical composer ; Lord Chancellor Rosslyn, and many other distinguished persons.

This vast fabric and its church-yard are surrounded by a low wall, surmounted by a strong iron balustrade, within which, in the area of the west front, stands a statue of Queen Anne, during whose reign the edifice was completed. It was executed by Bird ; but the emblematic figures which adorned it were many years ago much mutilated by a negro maniac.





T.H. Shepherd del.

Sands sc.

St. Paul's.

Pub'd Oct' 1837 by J. Harris St Paul's Church Yard London.

GUILDHALL.

THIS building, situated at the north end of King Street, Cheapside, is the public hall of the city of London, in which are held the various courts, the meetings of the livery to elect members of parliament, the lord mayor, sheriffs, &c., and where most of the grand city entertainments are given. According to Stow, the original hall for the transaction of the public business of the city was on the east side of Aldermanbury. When the site of the present building was first applied to the purpose, we are not informed; but Fabian tells us that the Guildhall which stood here “was begunne to be builded new in the year 1411; and the same was made, of a little cottage, a large and great house as now it standeth.”

The expense of erecting the great hall was defrayed by large donations from the city companies, and the produce of fees and fines, which were ordered to be appropriated to this purpose for ten years. The kitchen and other offices were built about the year 1501, since which time the lord mayor's feasts have been held here.

In the great fire of 1666, all the combustible parts of this edifice were consumed ; but such was the solidity of the walls, as to admit of a substantial restoration at the cost of about 2500*l.* Further repairs were made early in the last century ; but it was not till 1789 that the present front was erected, under the direction of Mr. George Dance, architect to the corporation. It belongs to no determinate style of architecture, but appears to be the offspring of the inventive

faculty of the builder. It consists of three divisions, separated by fluted pilasters, with pinnacles, and the central division surmounted by the city arms. This front is a facing of stone upon the old work.

The Great Hall, from its vastness, the character of its architecture, and its sculptural decorations, produces a grand and impressive effect. It is one hundred and fifty-two feet long, fifty broad, and about fifty-five high. The sides are each broken into eight divisions by projecting clusters of columns, which are supposed to have originally supported an open timber-work roof, similar to that of Westminster Hall ; but, in place of that roof, there is now an attic story, raised to the height of about twenty feet on the old walls. At each end of the Hall is a grand pointed arch window, occupying nearly the entire width,

enriched with stained and painted glass of modern execution.

An enclosed platform at the east end of the Hall, raised several feet above the pavement, is appropriated to taking the poll at elections, and other purposes; and at the west end, on an octagonal column on each side of the great window, are placed the two colossal figures known by the names of Gog and Magog. The origin of these figures is unknown: they are carved in wood, and are supposed to represent an ancient Briton and a Saxon; the one holding a long staff, from which hangs a ball stuck with spikes, and the other a halbert and shield.

In this Hall have been erected, at the expense of the City, cenotaphs in commemoration of Alderman Beckford, William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, and his son of the same

name, and Lord Nelson. Beckford, who was lord mayor in 1763 and 1770, particularly distinguished himself by his opposition to the arbitrary measures of the government during the contest maintained by John Wilkes respecting the right of election for Middlesex. Being charged during his last mayoralty to deliver to the King a remonstrance from the Corporation of London, which drew forth a rebuke from his majesty, Beckford gave a spontaneous reply, assuring the King that he had not in his dominions subjects more faithful, more dutiful, or more affectionate, than the citizens of London. The figure on the monument represents the lord mayor in the act of delivering this celebrated speech, which is engraved beneath, and which was rendered still more impressive by his death, which followed within a month.

The monument of the Earl of Chatham was executed by the late John Bacon, who received three thousand guineas for his labour. The inscription is from the pen of Edmund Burke. Nelson is commemorated by a vast pile of sculpture, executed by the late Mr. James Smith at a cost of nearly 4500*l.* : but the gallant chieftain is represented only by a profile on a small medallion. The inscription was written by the late R. B. Sheridan. The monument of the Right Hon. William Pitt, by Mr. J. G. Bubb, cost the City about 4000*l.*; and the inscription was written by the late George Canning.

At the east end of the Hall are portraits of British sovereigns from the time of William III. Around it are placed those of the judges who were appointed after the great fire to form a distinct court for the settlement of disputes

about property arising out of that calamity, without judicial litigation. In consequence of the gratuitous services thus rendered by them to the City, it was determined that their portraits should be placed in this Hall. Sir Peter Lely was the artist selected to paint them ; but, as he refused to wait on the judges at their chambers for that purpose, Michael Wright was employed in his stead, and received 60*l.* for each of the twenty pictures. There is also a portrait, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of that eminent lawyer, the first Earl Camden, placed here as a memorial of his courage and integrity in granting a habeas corpus, and liberating Mr. Wilkes when he had been committed to the Tower on an illegal warrant.

In this Hall, which is spacious enough to contain seven thousand persons, the inaugura-

tion dinners of the lord mayors have been held since the beginning of the sixteenth century. These entertainments are always splendid, but particularly so when royalty honours the civic authorities with its presence. The most magnificent feast of this kind ever held here was on the 18th of June 1814, when the Prince Regent, the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and many other illustrious foreigners, accepted an invitation from the City. The dinner, which was as sumptuous as money and skill could make it, was served wholly on plate, the value of which was estimated to exceed 200,000*l.*; and the total cost of the entertainment to the Corporation of London fell little short of 25,000*l.*

The Common Council Chamber is a large and well-proportioned room, appropriately fitted up for the meetings of the Court of

Common Council, consisting of the lord mayor, twenty aldermen, and two hundred and thirty-six deputies from the City wards. The ceiling forms a cupola, with a lantern light in the centre. This room is decorated with a fine collection of paintings, for which the City is chiefly indebted to the late public-spirited Alderman Boydell; and at the upper end, immediately behind the chair of the lord mayor, is a fine statue in white marble of George III, executed by Chantrey, at a cost to the City of more than 3000*l.* Above it is an immense picture by Copley, to commemorate the gallant defence of Gibraltar by General Elliott, afterwards Lord Heathfield, and representing the destruction of the floating batteries before that fortress in 1782. Four other pictures, by Paton, represent important events in that celebrated siege; and two, by

Dodd, the naval engagement in 1782, between Rodney and De Grasse. Here are likewise portraits of eminent naval commanders ; Lords Rodney, Hood, Howe, Duncan, St. Vincent, and Nelson ; of Lord Heathfield, Marquis Cornwallis, and Alderman Boydell. Against the south wall is a large picture of the murder of David Rizzio, by Opie ; and on the north, the death of Wat Tyler, by Northcote. Three other pictures exhibit subjects more strictly municipal : the Ceremony of administering the Civic Oath to Alderman Newnham, in 1782, which includes more than one hundred and forty portraits of aldermen, common-councilmen, and city officers ; the Lord Mayor's Show on the water ; and the Royal Entertainment in Guildhall, in June 1814.

The Chamberlain's apartment is decorated with copies on vellum of the numerous votes

of thanks from the Corporation to the naval and military commanders who signalised themselves during the late wars. A portrait, by Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Mr. Tomkins, by whom most of those addresses were written, forms an appropriate companion to them.

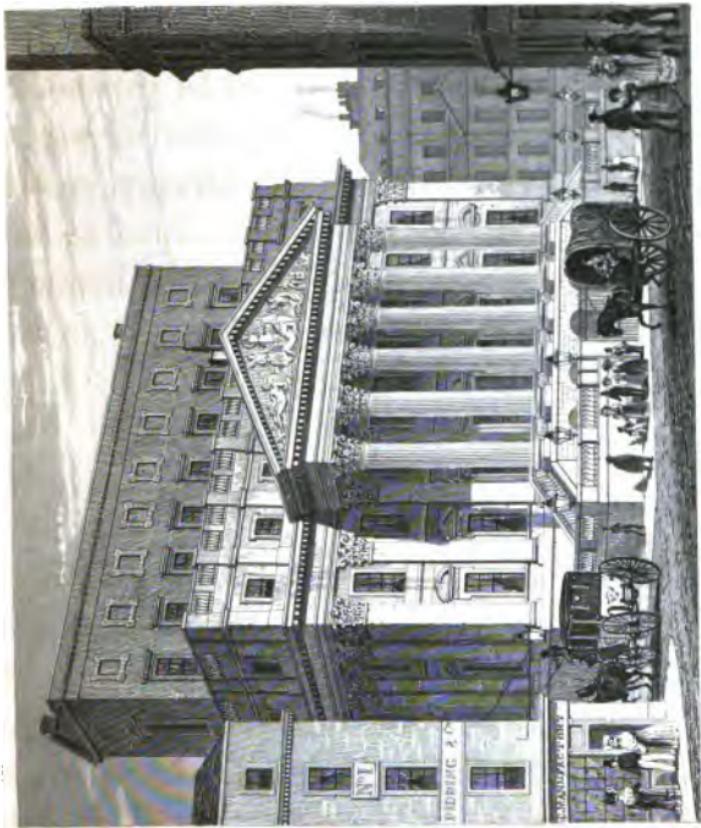
Great alterations have been made of late years in the state and appropriation of many of the apartments of this building, since the erection, about twelve years since, of the new Courts of King's Bench and Common Pleas, on the site of Guildhall Chapel; and of the new Court for the Commissioners of Bankrupts, on the site of Blackwell Hall. Those courts were previously held in the Guildhall itself.

It is a singular fact that so powerful and wealthy a body as the Corporation of London should have possessed scarcely a printed book

till within these few years. In 1824, however, it was resolved to establish a library in Guildhall; and the sum of 500*l.* was granted as an outfit, and 200*l.* per annum to be expended in the purchase of books. A librarian was appointed; and the collection already includes many rare and valuable publications on civic history and topography, and on municipal subjects in general.

THE MANSION HOUSE.

THE Mansion House, the official residence of the lord mayor, stands on the site of a market, which was called Stocks Market, the traffic of which was transferred to a new market built over Fleet Ditch, and known by the name of Fleet Market. The ground was

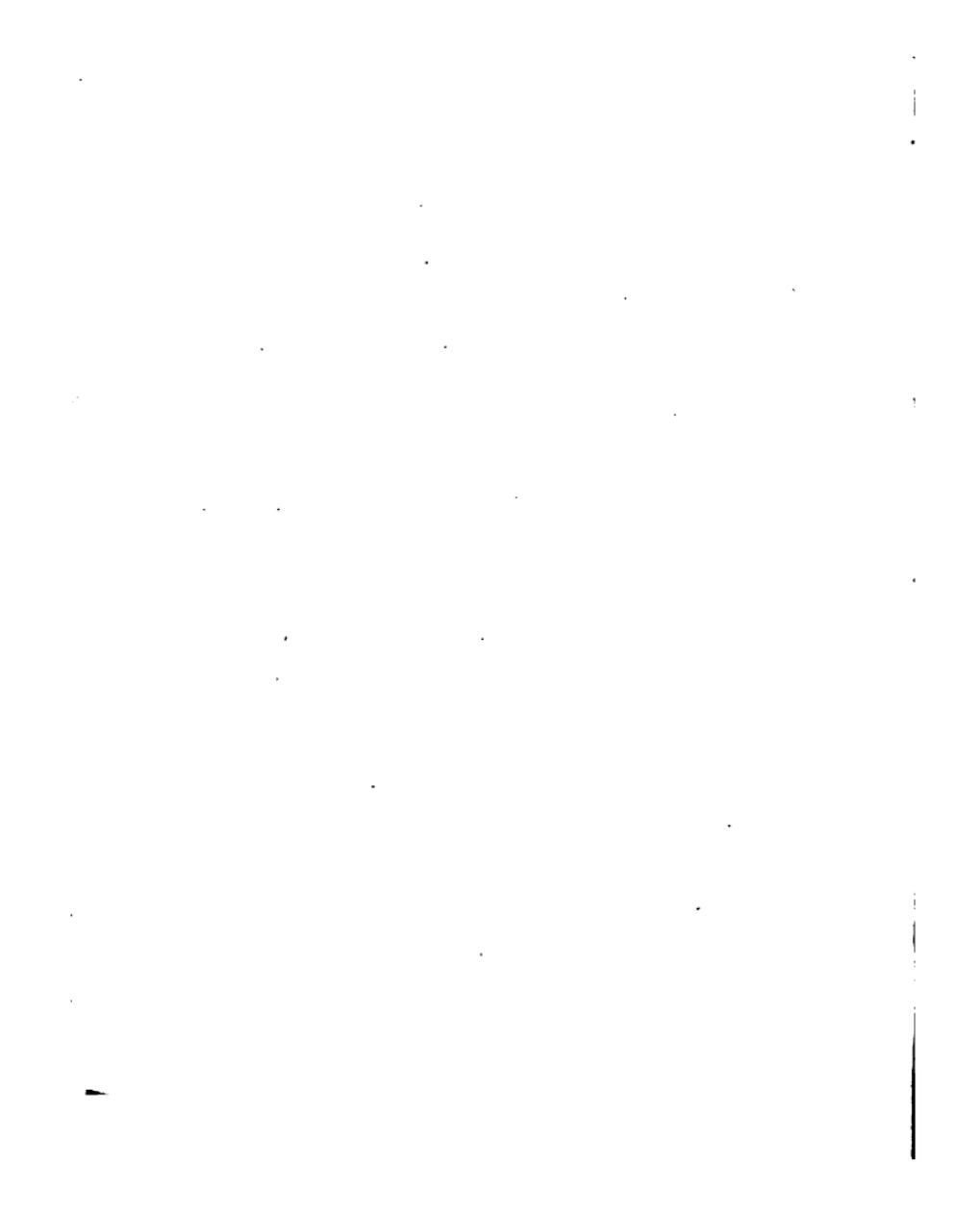


T.E. Thompson

London, 1770

1770

Printed by Thomas Paul, Marchant, London



found to be so full of springs, that it became necessary to drive piles for the foundation. The first stone was laid in 1739 ; and the edifice was finished, from the designs of Mr. George Dance, in 1753. Sir Crisp Gascoigne was the first lord mayor by whom it was inhabited.

This mansion is very substantially built of Portland stone. The basement is in rustic ; and in the centre of this story is the door leading to the kitchen and offices. A spacious double flight of steps leads to the portico above this story, composed of six fluted Corinthian columns, supporting a pediment decorated with a basso-relievo designed by Sir Robert Taylor, representing the dignity and opulence of the City of London. Beneath the portico is the entrance to the state rooms, which are more magnificent than comfortable,

many of the apartments being very dark. That called, for what reason we know not, the Egyptian Hall, extends the whole length of the front, and is used for public meetings and civic entertainments. Here the lord mayor gives frequent state dinners to the aldermen and sheriffs ; but the most magnificent of the feasts given by the chief magistrate is on Easter Monday, when the ministers of state and many of the principal nobility are invited. Over the state apartments is an attic story, crowned with a balustrade.

The sum granted annually to the lord mayor by the corporation to support the dignity of his office is 8000*l.*; but the actual expenditure varies, according to the hospitality of the chief magistrate, from 10,000*l.* to 15,000*l.*



T.H. Shepherd del.

Sands sc.

St. Paul's Church, Vauxhall.

Pubd Oct 1831 by J. Harris, St Paul's Church Yard, London.

THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

BEFORE the year 1566, the British metropolis had no place for its merchants, who were accustomed to assemble for the transaction of business in the open air in Lombard Street, where they were, of course, exposed to many inconveniences. At length, Sir Thomas Gresham, a wealthy citizen, proposed to the Corporation that, if the City would give him a piece of ground in a commodious spot, he would erect an Exchange at his own expense, with large and covered walks wherein the merchants and traders might daily assemble, and transact business in all seasons, without interruption from the weather, or impediments of any kind. This offer was accepted, and eighty dwellings, forming part of Corn-

hill, and three alleys, were purchased at an expense of 4000*l.* and pulled down to make room for the intended building. On the 11th of June 1566, Sir Thomas Gresham laid the foundation stone, and the work was finished in the beginning of 1568. When first opened, it was called the Burse ; but, about three years afterwards, Queen Elizabeth, after dining with many of her nobility at the mansion of the public-spirited founder in Bishopsgate Street, visited it in great state, and caused it to be proclaimed “The Royal Exchange.” The plan of this building embraced shops, chiefly occupied by haberdashers, armourers, apothecaries, booksellers, goldsmiths, glass-sellers ; and, only two days before the Queen’s visit, so many of these shops were still vacant, that Sir Thomas Gresham deemed it necessary to go round among the shopkeepers, and

entreat them to “furnish and adorn with wax-lights as many shoppes as they either coulde or woulde, and they shoulde have all those so furnished rent-free for that year.”

Sir Thomas Gresham, who died in 1579, bequeathed the Royal Exchange to his lady for her life, and at her death, jointly for ever to the Corporation of London and the Company of Mercers, in trust that the Citizens, out of their moiety, should pay a salary of 50*l.* per annum each to four professors, who should read public lectures on divinity, astronomy, geometry, and music at his mansion-house between Bishopsgate Street and Broad Street, afterwards called Gresham College; and 10*l.* annually to each of the prisons of Newgate, Ludgate, the Marshalsea, Queen's Bench, and Wood Street Compter: and that the Mercers, out of their moiety, should pay

annual salaries of 50*l.* each to three persons, who should read lectures on law, physic, and rhetoric, at his mansion-house ; 100*l.* per annum for four quarterly dinners at their own hall, for the entertainment of their whole company ; and 10*l.* each yearly to Christ's, St. Bartholomew's, St. Thomas's, and Bethlem Hospitals, the Spital, and the Poultry Computer.

The edifice erected by Gresham, having been almost entirely destroyed by the great fire in 1666, was replaced by a structure built from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. Edward Jerman, one of the City surveyors. It was finished in 1669, at the joint expense of the Corporation of London and the Mercers' Company, and cost 58,962*l.* It has since undergone extensive reparations, especially between 1820 and 1826, when a new

stone tower was built on the south front, instead of a more lofty one of timber. The expense of these last repairs and improvements amounted to nearly 33,000*l.*

This edifice, recently destroyed by fire, was built principally of stone, and had a rusticated basement. The ground-plan was nearly a regular quadrangle inclosing an open court, measuring one hundred and forty-four feet by one hundred and seventeen, and having a projecting arcade at each front in Cornhill and Threadneedle Street. The extent of the building from east to west was two hundred and three feet, and from north to south one hundred and seventy-one feet. The principal entrance was in Cornhill, in the centre of the south front, and consisted of a projecting portico, adorned with emblematical figures and statues of the two Charleses. From the roof

of the portico rose the tower, one hundred and twenty-eight feet in height. It consisted of three stories, partly of the Doric, and partly of the Corinthian order, surmounted by a cupola, with lofty vane of gilt brass, in the shape of a grasshopper, the crest of Sir Thomas Gresham, a statue of whom was placed in a niche in the lower part. The lateral façade walls were decorated with alto-relievos, by Bubb. The second story contained an excellent clock and four dials.

The inner area of the quadrangle, paved with small stones brought, as tradition reports, from Turkey, had in the centre a statue of Charles II, by Spiller, on a circular pedestal. It was surrounded by a broad piazza, formed by a series of semicircular arches, springing from Doric columns and pilasters. Beneath the piazza were twenty-eight large niches;

only two of which, on the west side, were occupied by statues. These represented Sir Thomas Gresham, by Cibber, and Sir John Barnard, whose figure was placed here in his life-time by his fellow citizens, in testimony of his merit as a merchant, a magistrate, and a faithful representative of the city in parliament.

Under this piazza, and in the area which it inclosed, the merchants and traders of this great commercial city met daily for the transaction of business. For the general accommodation, the whole space was divided nominally into many distinct portions called Walks, to which persons engaged in particular branches of traffic regularly resorted, so that the finding of any individual was greatly facilitated. The Exchange opened at eight in the morning and was closed at half-past four; but the chief part of the business was transacted after

three o'clock, when the crowd and bustle even in so large an area was very great.

The inner face of the superstructure had a grand appearance from its sculptural decorations. It consisted of two stories, surmounted by a regular balustrade. Between the piers of the upper entablature were twenty-five large niches, four of which were vacant. In the others were placed figures of British sovereigns from Edward I. to George III, executed chiefly by Cibber; George I. and II, by Rysbrack; and George III. by Wilton. Most of them were originally gilt, but latterly they were of a plain stone colour.

Under the projections of the north and south fronts, on the right of each entrance, and on the west side, were spacious flights of steps leading to the galleries, which formed regular communication with the various offices

and apartments into which the upper floors were divided. According to the original plan, the whole interior of the building was occupied as shops, to the number of not fewer than two hundred ; but at the time of the fire, that part of the building was appropriated as Lloyd's well-known Subscription Coffee-house and Committee-rooms, for the use of merchants and underwriters ; the Royal Exchange Assurance Office, the Merchant Seamen's Office, the Lord Mayor's Court Office, the Gresham Lecture-room, the Marine Society's Office, and as counting-houses and offices of underwriters, merchants, and others. The exterior was surrounded by shops, to the number of forty ; and the spacious vaults beneath the edifice, many years rented by the East India Company as pepper warehouses, were divided into six parts, and let to different bankers.

Such *was* the form and arrangements of the Royal Exchange: during a single night it was transformed into a heap of ruins. About ten o'clock in the evening of the 10th of January 1838, a fire, commencing in Lloyd's coffee-room, at the north-east corner of the edifice, and favoured by a high wind and an intense frost, which retarded the operation of the numerous engines that were almost immediately on the spot, made such rapid progress, that in a few hours the bare walls and the shell of the tower were all that remained of the noble building. The shops around were, of course, involved in the general destruction; and, in the interior, the falling of the colonnade dashed to pieces the statues of the sovereigns, excepting those of Kings Charles I. and II, which, with that of Sir Thomas Gresham, the original founder, received no material injury.



Frontispiece

Scenes of England

London Published Oct 1840 by J. Harris & Sons, March 1841



The public spirit of the country, and of the metropolis, leaves no room to doubt that a structure, worthy in every respect of its important destination, will soon rise from the ashes of the late Royal Exchange; and it is also to be presumed that, in the erection of a new place of meeting for the merchants of the first commercial city in the world, every possible precaution will be taken against the recurrence of so awful a calamity.

THE BANK OF ENGLAND.

THE idea attached to the term Bank (from the French *banc*, bench,) was derived from the *mensarii* of the Romans, who were the owners of tables set in public places for the exchange of commodities for money. Our present banking

system originated in the middle ages, in Italy, where Lombard Jews first kept banks or benches in the market-places for the exchange of money and bills; a kind of traffic which, proving very profitable, soon spread to other countries. These money negotiators were introduced in England by the Norman Conqueror, and, having settled in London, gave name to Lombard Street, which is still famous for the establishments of many of the principal bankers of the metropolis. Under succeeding monarchs these people had to endure the most horrible cruelties and extortions, till their expulsion by Edward I; after which, the trade of banking was monopolised by the Goldsmiths.

During the civil war in the seventeenth century the mischiefs arising from these private banks of the Goldsmiths produced great discontent, and set ingenious persons about devis-

ing a remedy for them. At length, in 1694, Mr. Paterson, an eminent merchant of London, suggested the plan of establishing the Bank of England, "for the purpose," as he expressed it, "of supplying the exigencies of government, and to save the ministerial people the disgrace of stooping so frequently to solicitations to the London common council, for the borrowing of only one or two hundred thousand pounds on the credit of the land-tax; as the common council did to the private inhabitants of their wards, going from house to house for the loan of the money." Thus the Bank was established for the support of public credit, the prevention of extravagant usury, and the benefit of trade. It was incorporated by act of parliament in 1694. The original capital was 1,200,000*l.*, which was augmented at different times to 11,686,800*l.*; and

in 1816 the Company was permitted, in consequence of a loan to government of three millions, to increase its capital 25 per cent. which makes the amount of the present capital or Bank stock 14,608,500*l.*

The Company of the Bank of England are restricted from trading in any kind of goods or merchandize, so that the use of their capital is confined to the discounting of bills of exchange, and to the buying and selling of gold and silver bullion ; but they have a right to sell such goods as are mortgaged or pledged to them, and not redeemed within three months after the time specified for the purpose. A recent act of parliament allows the Company to lend money on the mortgage of landed property. Besides these sources of profit, the Bank has allowances for managing the public funds, that is to say, the payment of the interest on the

national debt, and also for regulating the subscriptions on the loans contracted by government, which produce considerable sums. The direction of its affairs is vested in a governor, deputy-governor, and twenty-four directors, who are elected annually at a general court of the proprietors.

The business of this great and wealthy corporation was originally carried on at Grocers' Hall in the Poultry. In the year 1732, the first stone of the present building in Threadneedle Street was laid on the site of the house and garden of Sir John Houblon, the first governor; and it was completed in the following year, after the designs of Mr. George Sampson. This edifice comprehended no more than what now forms the central part of the south front, with the court-yard, the hall, and the bullion court. Wings to the east and west were added

by Sir Robert Taylor; but these have been more substantially rebuilt by Sir John Soane, from whose designs the whole exterior, and the greatest part of the interior, have been erected.

The architectural features of the exterior convey ideas of opulence, strength, and security. The south front, with its new centre of the Corinthian order, is remarkably elegant. In most parts of the exterior, the forms as well as the order have been copied from classic remains of antiquity. The walls inclose an irregular area of about eight acres, completely insulated from all other buildings; the south side measuring three hundred and sixty-five feet, and the west four hundred and forty, the north four hundred and ten, and the east two hundred and forty-five. This space comprehends nine open courts, a spacious rotunda, numerous public offices, court and committee

rooms, an armoury, engraving and printing offices, besides apartments for the chief officers and servants. The principal offices, being covered by domes furnished with lantern lights, have no rooms over them ; so that the basement story contains a greater number of apartments than there are above ground.

The principal entrance is in the south front, in Threadneedle Street, and leads to the Drawing Office or Pay Hall, seventy-nine feet long and forty wide, where bank-notes are issued and exchanged for cash. This office forms part of the original building, and is adorned by a marble statue of William III, by Cheere, with a laudatory Latin inscription. Over this hall, but in a separate building, is the clock ; a very ingenious piece of mechanism, so contrived as to show the exact time in sixteen different offices, the communication

being kept up by means of brass rods. There are three other entrances,—in Princes Street, Lothbury, and Bartholomew Lane.

The Rotunda, near the entrance in Bartholomew Lane, is a spacious room crowned by a lofty cupola, fifty-seven feet in diameter, and about the same in height to the lower part of the lantern at the top of it. It is furnished with large desks, pens, and ink for the public convenience ; this being the place of resort for stock-brokers, stock-jobbers, and other persons who transact business in the funds. The noise and confusion which frequently prevail here, from the avidity with which the pursuit of gain is carried on, would astonish any one not accustomed to the scene.

The Three per Cent. Consol. Office, about ninety feet long and fifty wide, was designed by Sir John Soane, after ancient Roman baths,

and is of a highly enriched and classical character. The Dividend and Bank Stock Offices are of similar architecture, and all three have cupolas and lantern lights. The Chief Cashier's Office, which measures forty-five feet by thirty, is an imitation of the temple of the Sun and Moon at Rome.

The Court Room, a handsome apartment of the composite order, was designed by Sir Robert Taylor; and this, as well as the whole suite of apartments in the same portion of the building, is splendidly fitted up. It overlooks an area planted with trees and shrubs, formerly the churchyard of St. Christopher's; nearly the whole of which parish is now inclosed within the walls of the Bank. After the riots in 1780, when the populace meditated an attack on this establishment, the old tower and the remaining part of the church, the possession of which

might have furnished means of serious annoyance, were taken down by the authority of parliament.

The greater part of this extensive pile of building is of stone; and, to obviate all danger from fire, the new buildings erected under the superintendence of Sir John Soane are of in-combustible materials. The vaults also, in which bullion, coin, and bank-notes are deposited, are indestructible by fire.

THE POST OFFICE.

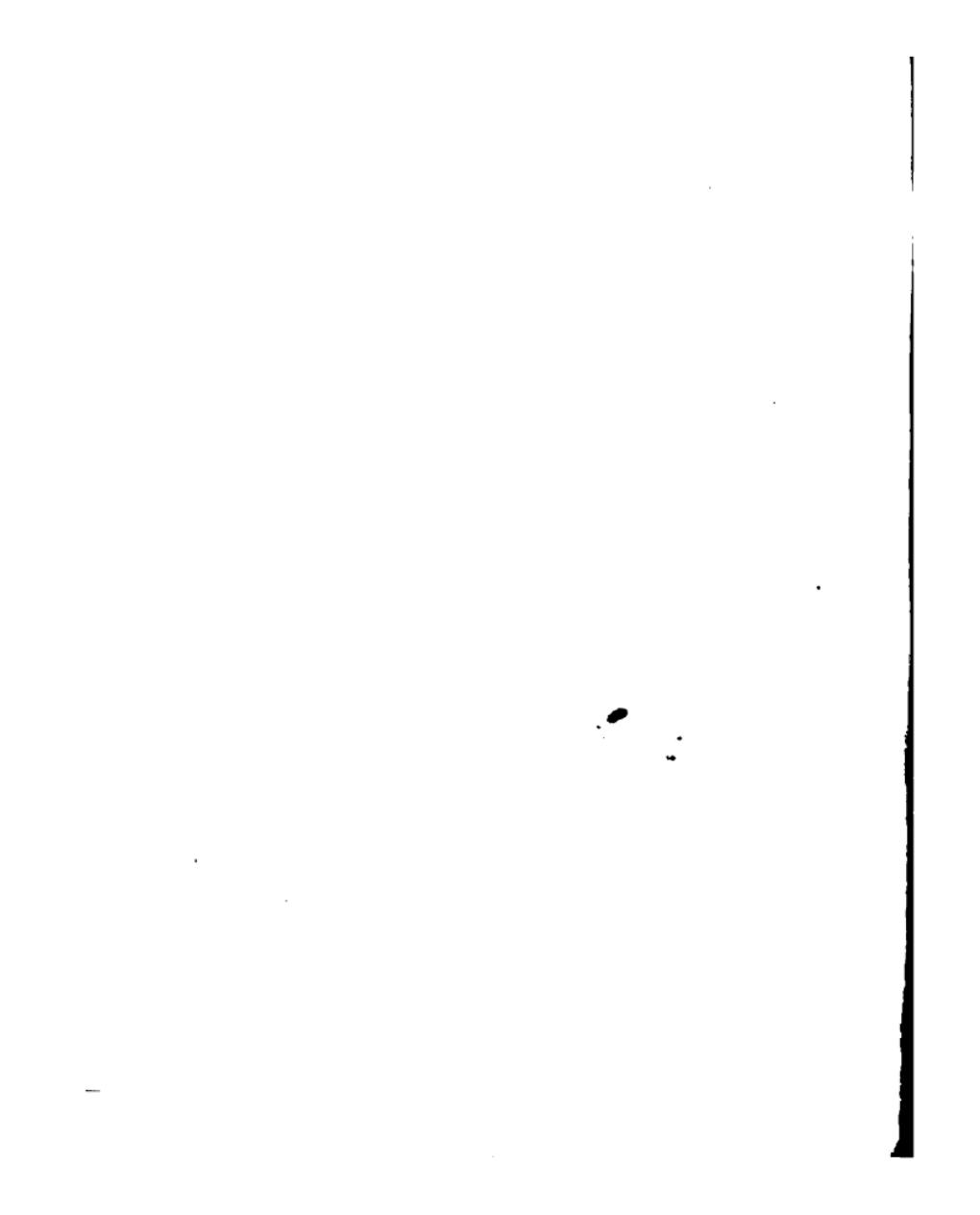
THE General Post Office formerly occupied a large building in Lombard Street, once the residence of Sir Thomas Viner, an eminent banker in the time of Charles II. This situation having been found extremely inconvenient,



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John Gadsby Chapman

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in consequence of the great increase of the business of the establishment, the site of the present office, on the east side of St. Martin's le Grand, was after much difficulty obtained, and a great number of houses pulled down to make room for the new structure. It was commenced in 1818, from the designs of Sir Robert Smirke, and the whole completed and opened for public use in 1829.

The principal front, three hundred and eighty-nine feet in length, is adorned with three porticoes of the Ionic order. That in the centre, supported by six columns, is seventy feet in breadth, and twenty deep, and projects before the general line of the building; the two others at the ends have four columns each, supporting straight parapets. Under the central portico is the principal entrance to the great hall, which occupies

the whole centre of the building, being eighty feet long, sixty wide, and fifty-three high; and is a public thoroughfare from St. Martin's le Grand to Foster Lane. This noble hall is divided into three parts by two rows of six columns, corresponding with those of the portico, formed of Portland stone, and standing on pedestals of granite.

On each side of the great hall are entrances to numerous offices. On the north side are the receiving-rooms for newspapers, inland, and ship letters ; and, beyond these, offices for the inland letter-sorters and letter-carriers. These apartments extend to the extremity of the north wing. In this part of the building are also a spacious office for West India letters, and the comptroller's and mail-coach offices. On the south side of the hall are the foreign office, and the offices of the receiver-general

and accountant; and at the south-east end the offices of the two-penny post department.

On the first floor are the board-room, the rooms of the secretaries and their clerks, the solicitor's offices, and those for letter-bill, dead, mis-sent, and returned letters. The second and third floors are occupied by sleeping-rooms for servants, and for the clerks in the foreign office, who are liable to be summoned to duty at uncertain hours. The latter are so numerous that all the rooms on each side of a gallery two hundred and thirty-seven feet in length are appropriated to them.

The basement, which is rendered fire-proof by brick vaultings, contains rooms for the mail-guards, and for various classes of servants, and likewise an armoury.

The east front in Foster Lane is plain, and has one hundred and eighty windows. The

entrance on this side is divided into three circular-headed doorways ; and it is here that the mail-coaches draw up to receive and deliver their bags of letters.

The average number of letters daily passing through the inland office is about thirty-five thousand received and forty thousand sent, or twenty-three million four hundred and seventy-five thousand annually ; and this exclusively of those transmitted by the foreign and two-penny post. The number of newspapers daily going and coming varies from twenty-five to fifty thousand. The clear net revenue produced to the government by the Post Office, after the payment of all the expenses of that establishment, is about 1,400,000*l.* per annum.

A very curious fact connected with the Post Office was recently brought to light by an in-

vestigation instituted by the Duke of Richmond, while Master-general. It was this :—in addition to the immense quantity of property passing daily through the Post Office, the amount of which it is not possible to estimate, and the number of letters evidently enclosing sovereigns and money, (about 700*l.* per day in and passing through London only,) not fewer than a thousand letters annually are put into the post without any address whatsoever, in many of which there are valuable inclosures. In the course of a single year there have been found above one hundred letters of this kind, which, on being opened for the purpose of being returned to the writers, have contained property to the amount of between 20,000*l.* and 30,000*l.*

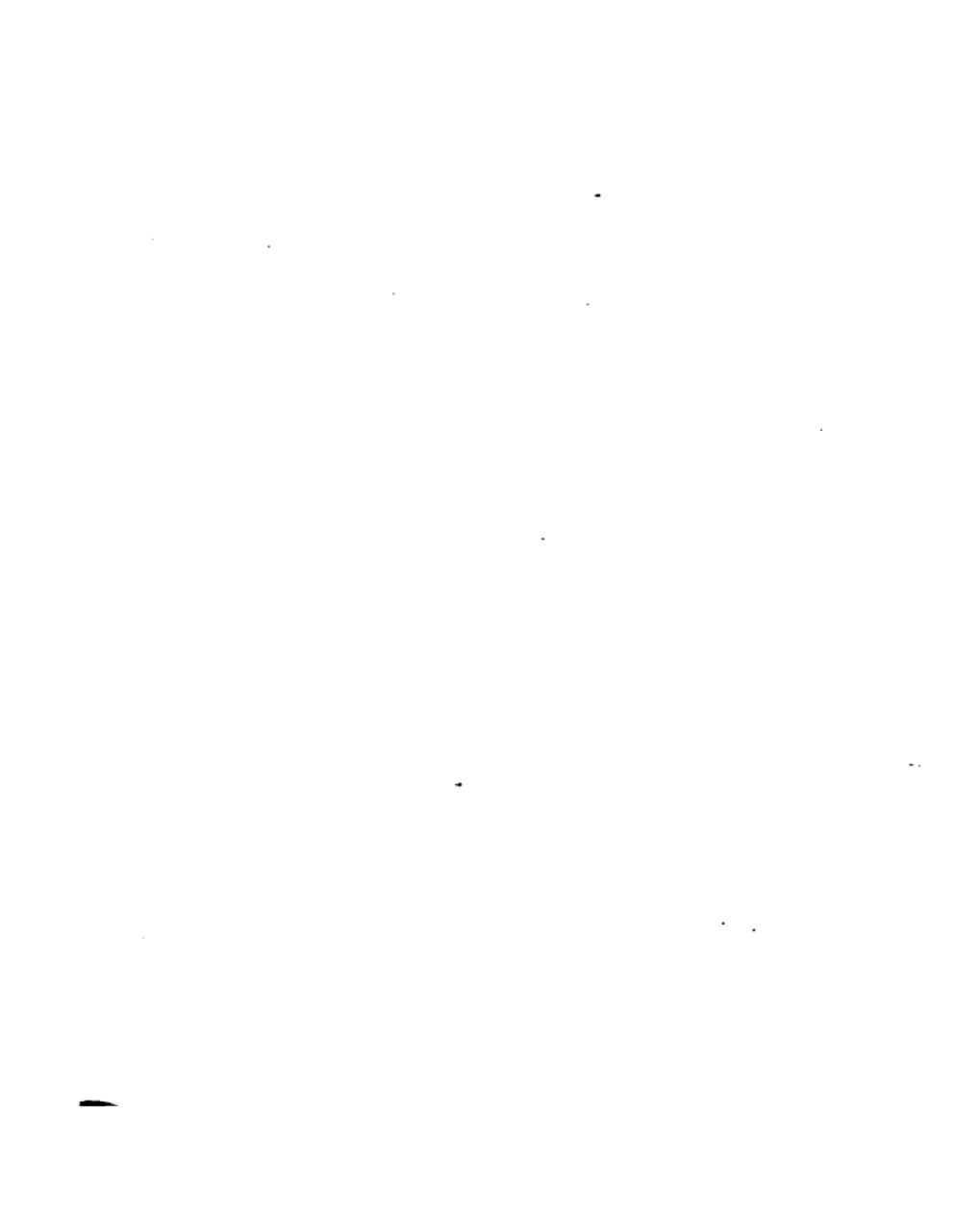
THE EXCISE OFFICE.

In treating of the Royal Exchange, mention has been made of the lectureships founded by the will of Sir Thomas Gresham, by whom the original building was erected. This eminent merchant, by his will, assigned his own mansion, on the decease of his lady, as the residence of the professors, whence it acquired the name of Gresham College. In 1597, the seven professors were appointed; distinct apartments were assigned to each; a common table was provided for them in the house; and they were required to read their lectures in such hoods and habits as suited their university degrees. Ward, in his "Lives of the Professors," says, "The situation of the place, the spaciousness of the fabric, extending westward from



Collegio degli Angeli

Illustration published in 1884 by Giacomo Sturzo, Padre, Arch. Prof.

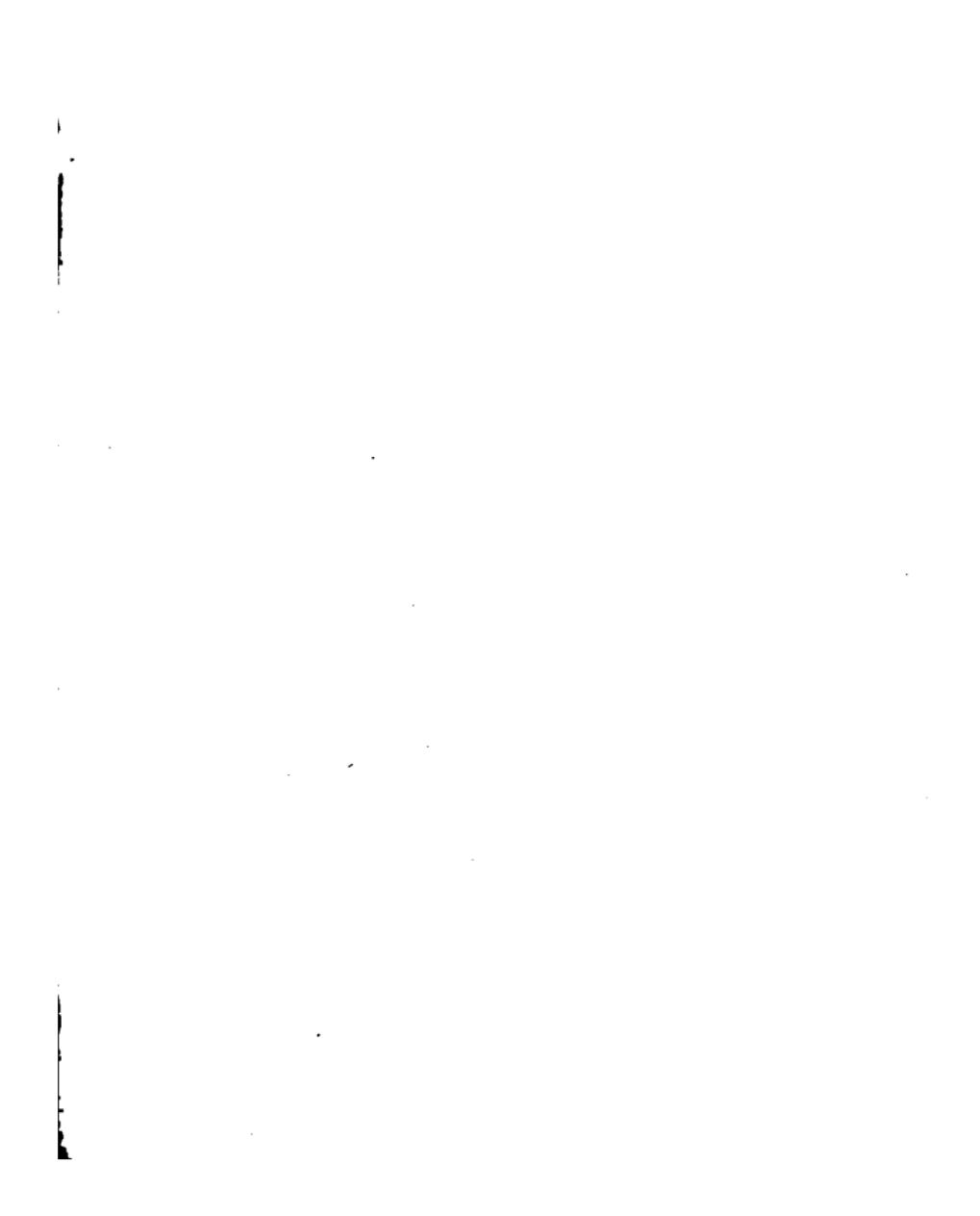


Bishopsgate Street into Broad Street, with the eight almshouses (also founded by Sir Thomas Gresham) at the back part of the house ; the accommodations for separate apartments of the several professors, and other rooms for common use ; the open courts and covered walks ; with the several offices, stables, and gardens, seemed all so well suited for such an intention, as if Sir Thomas had it in view at the time he built the house."

Here, about the middle of the seventeenth century, were held some of the first meetings of those eminent scholars and philosophers, whose weekly conferences led to the establishment of the Royal Society. After the death of Oliver Cromwell, the College was occupied as a military garrison, but soon afterwards restored to its former purpose. Having fortunately escaped the destructive fire of 1666, this edifice was

used for the transaction of the City business instead of the Guildhall ; and the quadrangle was allotted for the regular meetings of the merchants, as in the Exchange itself. Here, also, were held the meetings of the Royal Society, with a temporary interruption of a few years, from the period of its foundation till the year 1710.

In 1768 the trustees of Gresham College obtained an act of parliament authorizing the sale of that edifice to the Commissioners of Excise, for the purpose of building a new Excise Office on its site. This is a spacious fabric, situated in Broad Street ; consisting of a handsome range of stone buildings, having in the centre a slight projection, terminated by a pediment. Here is a spacious archway leading to an area, three sides of which are bordered by various offices of brick.





Scudellaro

Scudellaro

Scudellaro

The business of this office is managed by thirteen commissioners and four assistant-commissioners, under whom are numerous clerks and officers; the excise accounts from all parts of the kingdom being referred to this establishment. The total amount of the duties paid into this office is about twelve millions per annum.

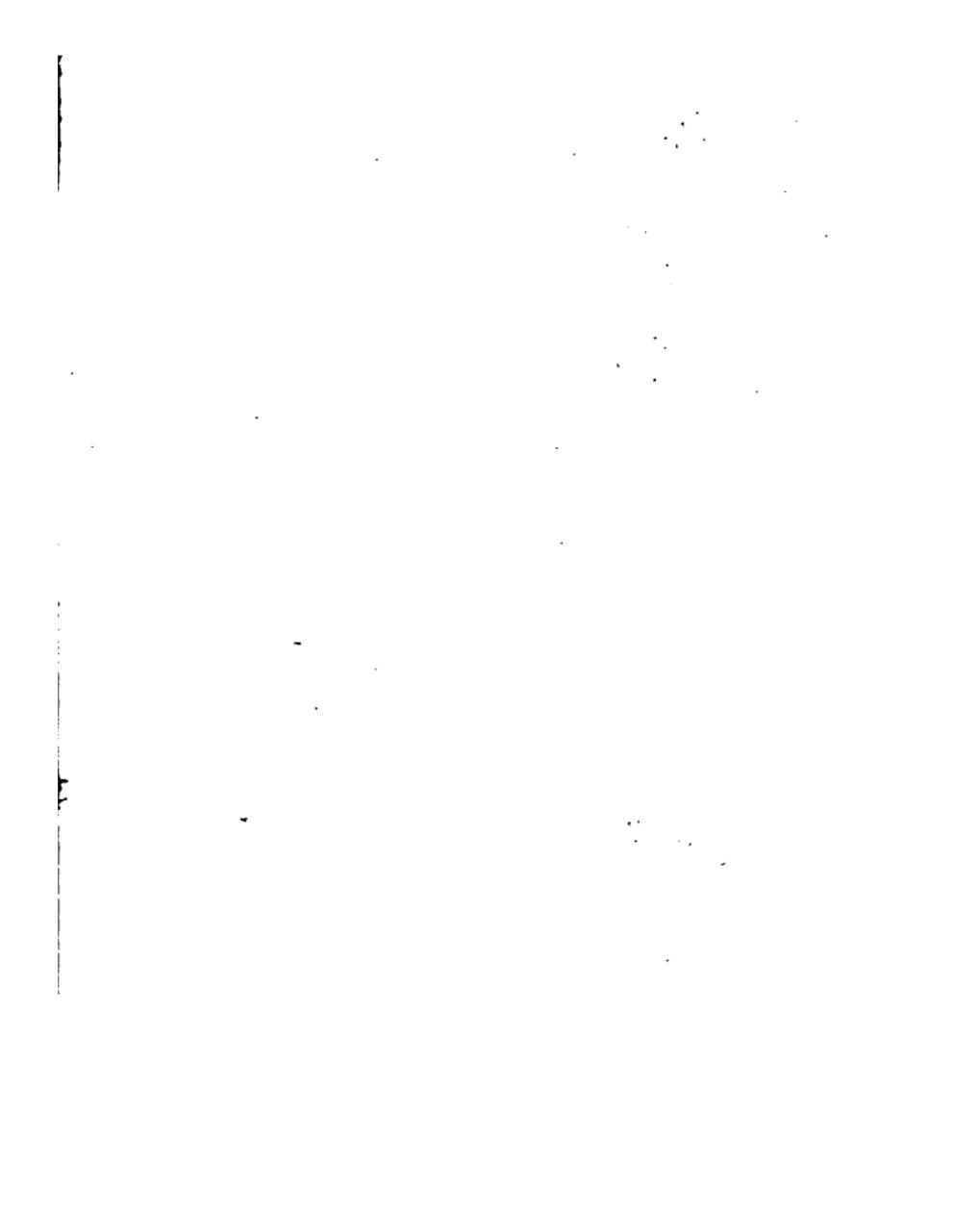
THE MINT.

THE Mint, the office where all the gold, silver, and copper money of the kingdom is coined, is a large handsome stone building on the north side of Little Tower Hill, consisting of a centre and wings; the former decorated with columns, and a pediment displaying the British arms. It was erected from the designs of Sir Robert Smirke, and its internal arrange-

ments have been especially adapted to the business of the coinage.

Before the erection of this edifice, the establishment of the Mint was in the Tower, and the coin of the realm had long been produced at the extensive works of Messrs. Boulton and Watts, at Soho, near Birmingham.

The total quantity of gold that has passed through the Mint from the accession of Queen Elizabeth, in 1558, to the end of 1834, is 3,353,568 pounds troy; and the value of the gold coin issued from it during the same period is 154,702,385*l.* sterling. Of this quantity nearly one half was coined during the long reign of George III.





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Verde S.

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE.

IN the year 1385, John Churchman, one of the sheriffs of London, considering the many inconveniences arising from the want of a proper place for collecting the customs, erected a house near the Tower for that purpose ; but, both at that time and long afterwards, the customs were collected in different parts of the city, and in a very irregular manner, to the great loss of the revenue. At length, in the first year of Queen Elizabeth, an act was passed, requiring that all goods should be landed in such places only as should be appointed by certain commissioners ; at the same time a new and more spacious Custom-house was erected on the site of the former edifice. In 1590 the customs produced 50,000*l.* a year. They had

at first been farmed at 14,000*l.*, but were afterwards raised to 42,000*l.* per annum.

The Custom-house having been wholly destroyed by the great fire of 1666, another building was erected on the same site by Sir Christopher Wren, which also was burned down in 1715, together with one hundred and twenty houses in Thames Street, when fifty persons perished in the flames. The same fate befel the fabric by which it was replaced on the 12th of February 1814; and this has been succeeded by the present edifice, erected from the designs of Mr. Laing, a little to the westward of the site of the former building.

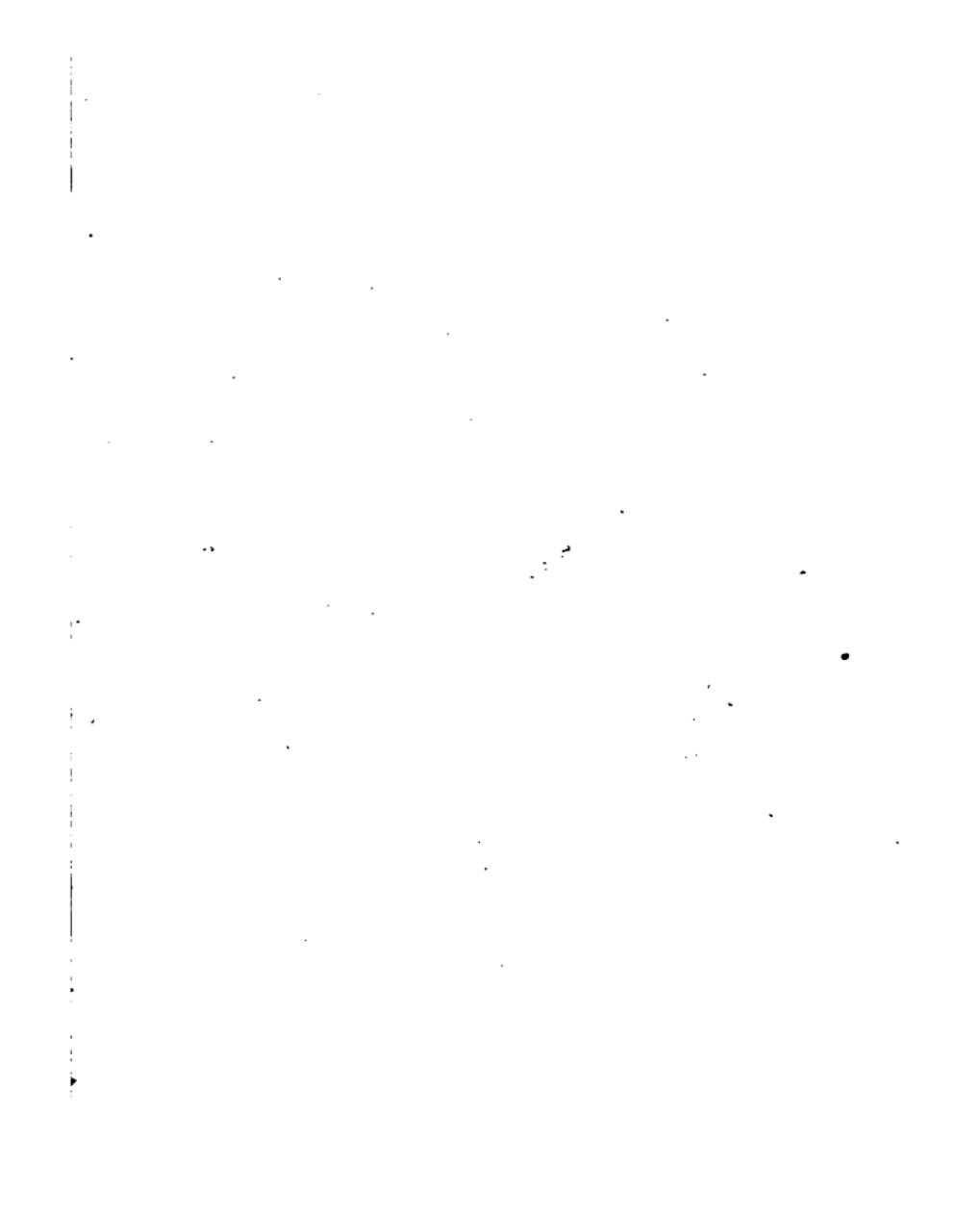
Its front, next to the river, is four hundred and eighty-eight feet long; and, with its returns, to the east and west, each one hundred and seven feet deep, is faced with Portland stone. It was opened for public business in

1817; but in 1825, owing to some defect in the foundation, a considerable part of the Long Room, which occupies the principal floor of the central compartment, fell in, and it was deemed necessary to take down the whole of the centre, which was rebuilt under the direction of Sir Robert Smirke.

The centre of the building is decorated by a projecting range of six Ionic demi-columns, supporting an entablature and balustrade. In the centre of each of the wings is a similar, but less projecting colonnade, with entablature and balustrade. The rest of the exterior is destitute of ornament. Each of the two principal entrances leads through a hall to a grand staircase in each wing, with a double flight of steps conducting to a lobby at either end of the Long Room, which is appropriated to the purpose of sales. All the passages and lobbies of

this edifice are paved with stone. On all the floors the communication between the wings and centre is kept up by means of iron doors, which run on wheels in a chase in the walls, and are moved by a windlass. These doors are closed every evening as a precaution against fire. There are also fire-proof rooms on each floor, for the reception of books and papers, which are deposited there every night. This edifice affords accommodation for about six hundred and fifty clerks and other officers, and about a thousand tide-waiters and servants. Along the front of it, towards the river, runs a broad wharf, with stairs for the public at each end. The total expense of the erection and fitting up of this building amounted to 250,000*l.* to which the rebuilding of the centre added the heavy charge of 180,000*l.*

The net receipts at the Custom-house in the



The Shepherdess

J. S. P.

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Mr. C. H. "Bobby" Morris - "Shepherdess" North End, Indiana



year ending January 5, 1835, exceeded nine millions and a half sterling; and the total amount of customs collected throughout the kingdom in the same year was upward of seventeen millions and a half.

THE TOWER.

EASTWARD of London Bridge, on the bank of the Thames, stands the Tower, which was in ancient times a royal palace, and occasionally inhabited by the British sovereigns from the Norman conquest to the time of Queen Elizabeth. Though tradition ascribes the original foundation of a fortress on this spot to Julius Cæsar, and in consequence one of the towers has been called Cæsar's Tower, there is no ground for believing that this

Roman general ever advanced so far into the island. The tower just mentioned, called also the White Tower, the most ancient part of the present fortress, was erected about the year 1078, by command of William the Conqueror, to secure the obedience of the Londoners. Considerable additions were made by his successors; and in 1190, the Bishop of Ely, Chancellor of England, who was left at the head of the regency during the absence of Richard I. in Palestine, surrounded the fortress with an embattled wall of stone and a broad deep ditch. Henry III. repaired, strengthened, and whitened the quadrangular tower erected by the Conqueror, on which occasion probably it received the name of the White Tower; and added a stone gate and bulwark, with other buildings, to the west entrance. Further additions, by Edward I,

were the last of any military importance made to the Tower before the invention of cannon.

During the long and sanguinary contest between the houses of York and Lancaster, the Tower was the scene of many memorable events. Henry VI. was twice imprisoned in this fortress, and it was also the scene of his death, but whether by violence or grief is yet undecided; and here the Duke of Clarence, brother of Edward IV, was, according to tradition, secretly drowned in a butt of Malmsey wine. The seizure of the crown by Richard III, and the mysterious disappearance and supposed murder of his nephews, Edward V. and Richard Duke of York, are circumstances of interest in the annals of the Tower.

In the reigns of Henry VII. and VIII. the Tower was frequently used as a royal residence; and here many of the victims of the

tyranny of the latter monarch suffered imprisonment and death, and among them two queens, the ill-fated Anne Boleyn and Catharine Howard. During the succeeding reigns, many illustrious persons were confined in the Tower as state-prisoners, and some suffered death within its walls; and this fortress has continued until the present time to be the place of confinement of persons charged with high treason and some other offences. The last inmates of this kind were the persons implicated in what was called the Cato Street conspiracy, in 1820, four of whom were executed in front of Newgate.

This fortress has the appearance of a town, comprising several ranges of building and streets, besides the different towers and barracks for the garrison. The whole comprises within the walls an area of more than twelve

acres. The outer circumference of the ditch, which entirely surrounds the land side, is three thousand one hundred and fifty-six feet. This ditch, next to Tower Hill, is broad and deep; but it becomes much narrower towards the river, from which it is divided by a wharf and platform mounted with sixty pieces of cannon, which are fired on royal birthdays, or in celebration of remarkable events. Besides these, there are twenty-one nine-pounders in three small batteries on different parts of the walls. The land entrance is by a stone bridge, crossing the ditch, at the south-west angle of the fortress. At the outer extremity of this bridge are two gates flanked with bastions, and within the ditch another gate; all of which are shut every night, and opened in the morning, with great formality. The wharf is connected with the Tower by two

drawbridges, near the easternmost of which is a cut connecting the ditch with the river, and secured by the gate called Traitors' Gate, because state prisoners were formerly brought into the Tower through this entrance.

The inner ward, or ballium, which contains all the principal buildings of the fortress, is entered by a noble gate in the style of the architecture of Edward III's reign. This ward was enclosed by a high stone wall, embattled and strengthened by thirteen small towers, so situated as to command every part of the outer rampart: most of these towers remain nearly in their original state, and great part of the wall is also yet standing.

The White Tower, which is nearly in the centre of the fortress, is a strong quadrangular building of three lofty stories. In the largest of the three apartments on the ground-

floor is the Volunteer Armoury, containing upwards of thirty thousand stand of arms, curiously arranged and fit for immediate service. On the first floor are armouries for the cavalry and sea services. In the second story is an ancient chapel, extending to the roof of the tower, which is a curious example of the bold and massive character of Norman architecture. It is now used as a repository for the various records of the Court of Chancery, and thence called the Record Office.

Besides the chapel just mentioned, there is another at the north-west corner of the inner ward, erected on the site of one still more ancient in the reign of Edward III. It contains many monuments, and within this chapel are interred many of the illustrious and ill-fated persons who were beheaded in the fortress, or on Tower Hill.

The Beauchamp, or, as it is sometimes called, the Cobham Tower, which appears to have been erected about the time of King John, was formerly used as one of the chief prisons for state delinquents ; and on the walls are numerous memorials, consisting of inscriptions, verses, names, coats of arms, and other devices, cut by the unfortunate persons confined there.

The Jewel Tower, formerly called Martin Tower, received its present name from being made the depository of the crown and other regalia used at the coronation of the British sovereigns.

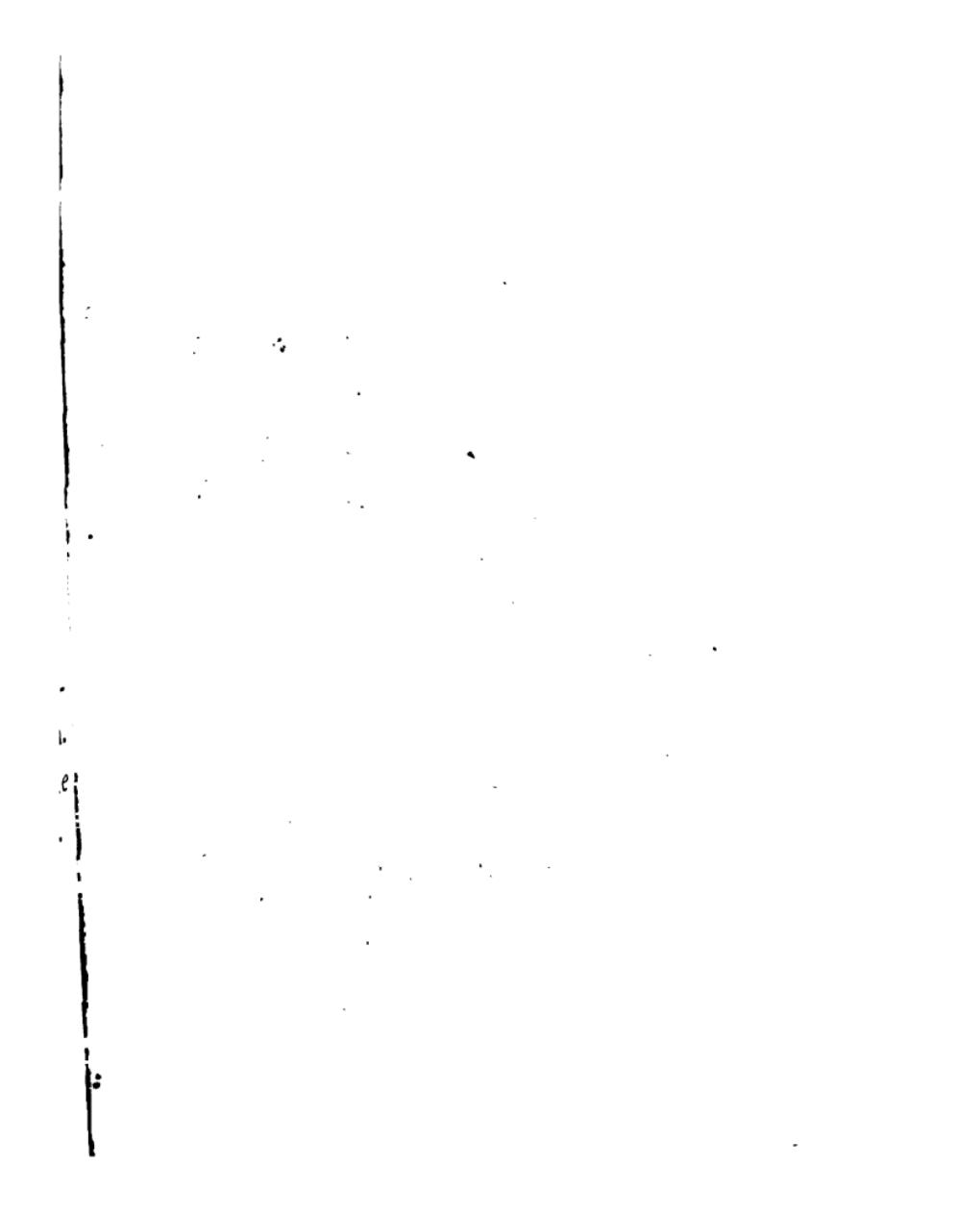
The collection of arms and armour in this fortress is unequalled by any similar dépôt in the world ; and the ingenious manner in which they are arranged is particularly striking. In the Spanish Armoury are displayed

the various spoils and trophies said to have been taken in the Spanish Armada, and among them the thumb-screws intended to force the English to confess where their money and other valuables might be concealed. The Horse Armoury, a spacious apartment one hundred and fifty feet long and thirty-three wide, exhibits a spectacle truly imposing. It contains twenty-two equestrian figures of sovereigns and nobles, all of them in the armour of the period in which they lived, and some in the identical suits worn by the persons whom they represent.

On the ground-floor of the Grand Storehouse, which was erected in the reigns of James II. and William III, and is three hundred and forty-five feet in length and sixty wide, is kept the Royal Train of Artillery, consisting of numerous pieces of ord-

nance of different kinds. Above this room is the Small Armoury, containing modern arms of every kind sufficient to equip one hundred and fifty thousand men. These are arranged in a great variety of curious forms and devices, so as to present a most interesting sight. Here also are preserved numerous military trophies, and warlike instruments and accoutrements of all sorts.

Besides the buildings above-mentioned, the Tower contains houses belonging to the different officers, and barracks for the garrison. The warders, forty in number, wear the same uniform as the yeomen of the Queen's guard.



London

F.H. Newell

Painted by F.H. Newell - 1908
Polo Field - Manuscript - Dutch York Island



LONDON BRIDGE.

THOUGH a bridge across the Thames is mentioned by Dion Cassius as having existed in the time of the Romans, history furnishes no positive evidence that there was such a structure in London before the tenth century. According to Stow, there was prior to that time a *ferry* across the Thames at this place, which was given by the last possessor to a nunnery founded by her on the south bank of the river. This house was afterwards converted into a college for priests, who built a bridge of timber contiguous to St. Botolph's Wharf. In 1091, this structure was swept away by an inundation: that which succeeded it suffered greatly by fire, and became so ruin-

ous, that in 1163 it became necessary to replace it with a new one, still of timber. The instability of a wooden bridge over so wide a stream, and the necessity for frequent and extensive repairs, led to the erection of a fabric of stone, which was begun in 1176, a little to the west of the former structure. Peter, curate of Colechurch, was the architect of this stone bridge, as he had been of the preceding one of timber. King Henry II. is said to have assisted in the work, in what manner we are not informed; but, from the popular saying that "London Bridge was built upon woolpacks," it has been inferred that it was by the proceeds of a tax upon wool. It was not finished till the year 1209. It appears to have consisted of twenty irregular arches of from eight to twenty feet span, some of them being semicircular, and others pointed.

The total length was nine hundred and fifteen feet.

Soon after its completion, it became the scene of a dreadful catastrophe. In the night of the 10th of July 1212, a great fire broke out in Southwark near the south end of the bridge ; and the flames, being driven by a strong south wind, set on fire the north end, which prevented the return of the multitudes who had hastened to the spot to assist in extinguishing the conflagration. While the crowd were endeavouring to force a passage back to the city through the flames, the south end also took fire, by which means the people were enclosed between two fires ; and, notwithstanding the assistance afforded by the shipping, more than three thousand persons were either burned or drowned.

At each end of this bridge there was a de-

fensive tower with a gateway; and on the centre a chapel, dedicated to St. Thomas, was erected at the expense of the master-mason, and in the crypt of this chapel, within the centre pier, was interred the body of Peter of Colechurch, the architect, who died four years before the completion of the bridge. Nearer to the Southwark end there was a drawbridge, which was occasionally raised to admit of the passage of vessels to and from Queenhithe, long the principal wharf in the city. At the north end of the drawbridge a third tower was erected in 1426. The intermediate spaces were occupied by houses.

During the reign of Elizabeth, it was customary to expose the heads of persons executed for high treason on the tower at the Southwark end of this bridge, from which circumstance it was called the Traitors' Gate. Hentzner, a

German traveller, who visited England in 1597, states that he counted upwards of thirty heads stuck upon iron spikes on this tower.

Though, as it has been already stated, the bridge was itself of stone, yet the houses upon it were built only of timber, leaving a very narrow and inconvenient street between them. Their repeated destruction by fire occasioned the loss of many lives ; it was therefore determined to remove them. The Corporation accordingly obtained in 1756 an act of parliament empowering them to take down those buildings, and to make such other alterations as might be deemed requisite. Two arches near the centre were thrown into one ; a balustrade was built on either side ; a paved road thirty-one feet broad was formed, with foot-pavements, each seven feet wide.

In 1582, machinery set in motion by wheels

worked by the tide, the invention of one Maurice, a Dutchman, was erected at the north end of the bridge, for the purpose of raising water to supply the inhabitants of the city. Two arches on the London side were occupied by these water-works ; one was taken up in the same manner at the Southwark end, for the supply of that borough ; but they were of course removed a few years since to make way for the erection of the new bridge.

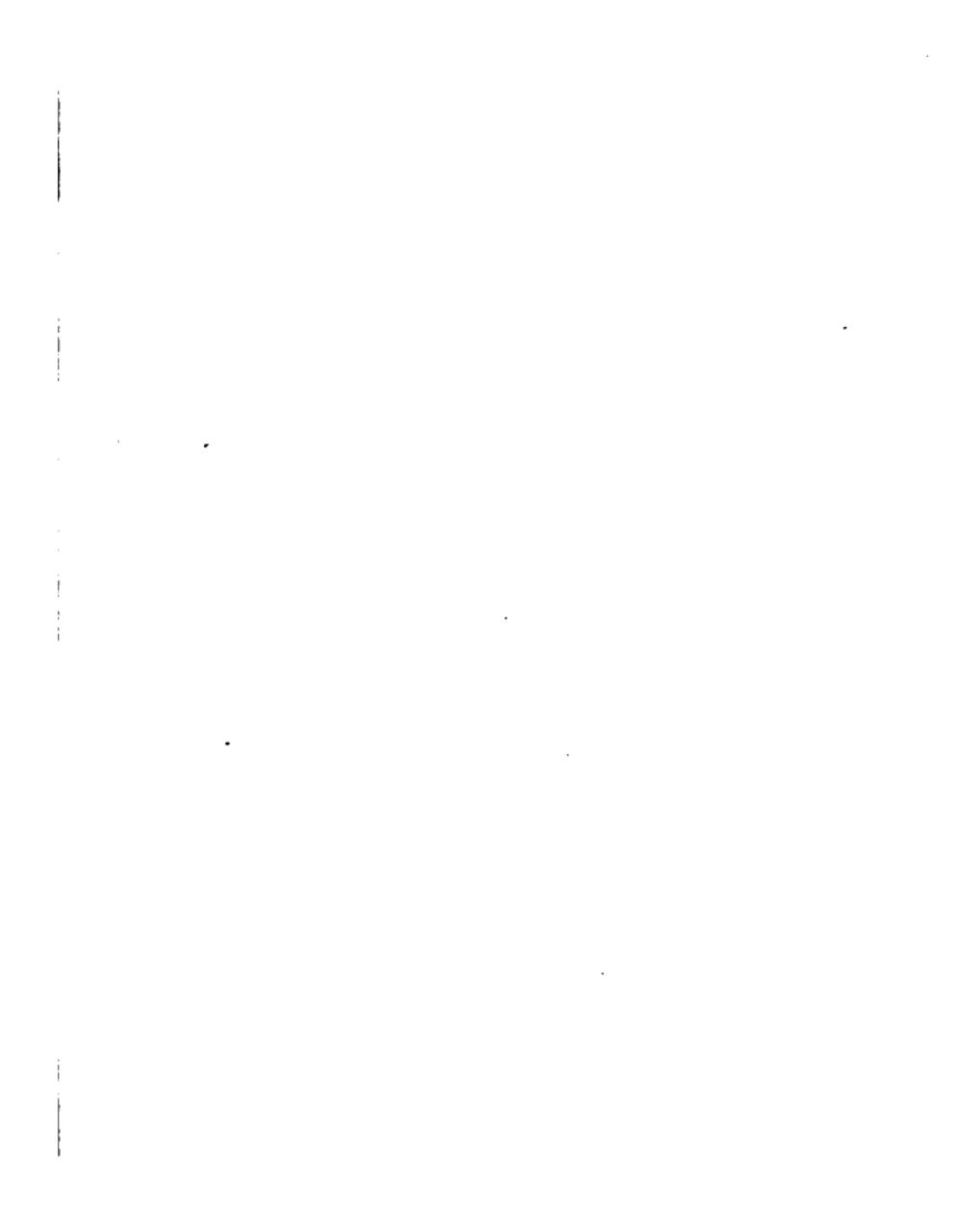
Though the ancient structure, after its alteration afforded a commodious passage across the river, yet, on account of the heavy fall of water occasioned by the contracted space of free water-way, owing to the number and thickness of the piers, and the breadth of the sterlings placed for their protection, many accidents, attended with the loss of lives and property, were continually occurring, and the na-

vigation of the river was greatly obstructed. It was therefore resolved to erect an entirely new bridge, a little to the westward of the old one. The designs of the late John Rennie, Esq. were adopted for this structure, and his two sons were engaged to direct the works. The first pile was sunk in March 1824; and the bridge was completed and opened in the presence of the king and queen, for whom a magnificent entertainment was provided in a temporary building erected upon it, on the 1st of August 1831.

This bridge consists of five semi-elliptical arches: the span of the centre arch is one hundred and fifty feet; that of the two next one hundred and forty; and that of the other two one hundred and thirty. The total length is nine hundred and fifty feet, including the abutments; and the clear water-way allowed by

the piers is six hundred and ninety feet. The parapet is plain, with a handsome block cornice. In the exterior three different sorts of granite have been employed: the eastern side is of purple Aberdeen, the western of light gray Devonshire Haytor, the arch-stones of both being united with the red-brown of Peter-head. These materials, roughly shaped at the quarries, were carefully wrought at the Isle of Dogs, and finally dressed and fitted to their places at the bridge. The foundations of the piers are formed of piles, chiefly beech, pointed with iron, which are driven about twenty feet into the blue clay of the bed of the river.

The architectural features of this structure are more remarkable for simplicity than magnificence. The piers have plain rectangular buttresses, standing upon plinths; and the pier ends which support them produce a grander





T.H. Shepherd del.

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Published 1833 by J. Harris, St. Paul's Church Yard, London.

effect when viewed from the river, than any other bridge over the Thames. The total cost of this bridge was about 500,000*l.*; nearly 200,000*l.* of which was defrayed by parliamentary grants out of the national exchequer, and the rest out of the revenues of the Corporation of London.

THE MONUMENT.

THAT noble column, which far surpasses in magnitude any similar work either ancient or modern, and is called by way of eminence, The Monument, stands on the east side of New Fish Street Hill, near the spot where in 1666 commenced that destructive fire which it was erected to commemorate. It was built from designs by Sir Christopher Wren, and under his superintendence, between the years 1671

and 1677, at an expense of somewhat more than 14,500*l.* which appears to have been defrayed out of the Orphans' Fund.

It is a fluted column, of the Doric order, and of Portland stone, placed on a pedestal forty feet high, and twenty-one feet square; the height of the shaft, which is fifteen feet in diameter at the base, being one hundred and twenty feet, and that of the surmounting cippus and flaming urn of gilt brass, forty-two; making the total altitude two hundred and two feet. Within the shaft, a staircase, consisting of three hundred and forty-five steps, of black marble, leads to an open balcony, or gallery, above the abacus, which commands an extensive view of the metropolis and its environs.

On the west side, or front, of the pedestal, is a large but confused allegorical sculpture in alto and basso relieveo, by Cibber, commemora-

tive of the destruction and restoration of the city of London. Charles II, attended by three females, representing Liberty, Genius, and Science, comes to her assistance. In the background are labourers, materials for building, and houses newly raised ; while, at the feet of the king, Envy, peering from an arched cell, is endeavouring to renew the mischief by blowing flames from his mouth.

On the north and south sides are appropriate Latin inscriptions, written by Dr. Thomas Gale ; the one recording the desolation of the city, and the other its restoration and improvement. On the east are inscribed the dates of the years in which it was begun and finished, and the names of the lord-mayors during its erection.

Around the base of the pedestal there was another inscription, in English, in a continued

line, as follows : “ This pillar was set up in perpetual remembrance of the dreadful burning of this Protestant city, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the Popish Faction, in the beginning of September, in the year of our Lord 1666, in order to the carrying on their horrid plot for extirpating the Protestant Religion and old English Liberty, and introducing Popery and Slavery.”

This inscription was wholly erased on the accession of James II, who was himself a Papist ; it was very deeply chiselled in again soon after the Revolution in 1688 ; but erased a second time in 1829. It is to this inscription that Pope, who was also a Catholic, so bitterly alludes in those well-known lines :

“ Where London’s Column, pointing to the skies,
Like a tall bully, lifts the head and *lies.*”

But notwithstanding this denunciation, and the

second erasure of the inscription, prompted more by a spirit of liberal concession than by conviction, there are many circumstances upon record which seem to furnish strong reason for believing the imputation to be well-founded.

In 1732, a sailor slid down a rope stretched from the gallery of the Monument to the Three Tuns Tavern, Gracechurch Street; and, on the following day, a waterman's boy descended to the street by the same rope. Three persons have committed suicide by throwing themselves from this gallery ; a weaver in 1750; John Craddock, a baker, in 1788; and Lyon Levy, a merchant, in 1810.

The calamity commemorated by the Monument was one of the most important events that ever happened to the British metropolis, whether considered with reference to its immediate effects or its remote consequences. It commen-

ced about one o'clock in the morning of Sunday, September 2d, at the house of one Farryner, the "king's baker," in Pudding Lane, near Lower Thames Street, into which it soon spread; nearly all the contiguous buildings being of timber, lath, and plaster, and the whole neighbourhood consisting of narrow lanes, alleys, and passages. Being impelled by strong winds, it raged with irresistible fury nearly four days and nights, and was not entirely subdued till the fifth day after it began. In that time it had extended westward to the Temple and Fetter Lane, and eastward almost to the Tower.

In the summary account of this tremendous devastation given in one of the inscriptions on the Monument from the reports of the surveyors appointed after the fire, it is stated that the ruins of the city were four hundred and thirty-

six acres,— three hundred and seventy-three within the walls, and sixty-three without them ; that, of the twenty-six wards, it utterly destroyed fifteen, and left eight others shattered and half burned ; that it consumed eighty-nine churches, four of the city gates, Guildhall, many public structures, hospitals, schools, libraries, and other stately edifices, thirteen thousand two hundred dwelling-houses, and four hundred streets. No accurate estimate was ever made of the value of the property thus destroyed ; but it could scarcely have fallen short of ten millions sterling.

Whatever may have been the origin of the fire, a truly extraordinary circumstance is, that, notwithstanding its extent, the inexpressible confusion, and the numberless dangers arising out of it, no more than six persons lost their lives, and two or three of these suffered from venturing too soon among the ruins.

The entire city, with the exception of the churches and the larger public edifices, was rebuilt in little more than four years, with much greater regularity and splendour, and in an infinitely more commodious and healthful manner, than the ancient capital. One of the grand advantages arising from the calamity was the total cessation of the plague ; though there was scarcely a year in the preceding century in which London had not been visited by it, and its ravages in 1665 alone had carried off nearly one hundred thousand persons.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS
OF
WESTMINSTER.

INTRODUCTION.

LONDON, the immense metropolis of the British empire, seated upon the noble river Thames, is composed of the cities of London and Westminster, with their suburbs, on the north side of the river, and Southwark, with its adjuncts, on its southern bank. These form the largest assemblage of human habitations at present existing, or probably that ever did exist, in the world. It is computed to contain

seventy squares, nine thousand streets, lanes, courts, and alleys, and above one hundred and sixty thousand houses; extending from east to west seven miles and a half, and in breadth above five miles, and being not less than thirty in circumference. The population of all the parishes, whose churches are situate within eight miles, in a direct line from St. Paul's cathedral, in 1801 somewhat exceeded one million, and had increased in 1831 to upwards of one million and three quarters; but the actual number of the inhabitants of the three divisions specified above may be estimated at a million and a half.

From the abundant supply of water conveyed to every house either from the Thames on the south, or the New River on the north; from the construction of sewers or large vaulted channels underground, communicating

with each house by smaller ones, and with every street by convenient openings and gratings, to carry off all filth which can be thus conveyed into the river; and from the attention paid to the cleansing of the streets themselves,—London is a remarkably healthy city. The general excellence of the provisions, with which it is most abundantly supplied, may also conduce to the health of its inhabitants. In no city is the public convenience so carefully studied. From the flagged pavements on each side of every street, appropriated exclusively to pedestrians; the brilliant light diffused after sunset by numberless gas lamps; and the silent vigilance of the efficient and well-regulated police, by which the old system of a nightly watch was some years since superseded; this vast city may now be tra-

INTRODUCTION.

versed in every direction, and at any hour either of day or night, with perfect convenience and security.

London, including Westminster, is situated near the south-eastern extremity of the county of Middlesex, about sixty miles from the sea calculating by the course of the river, and in 51 degrees 31 minutes north latitude, and 5 minutes 37 seconds west longitude from Greenwich Observatory.

WESTMINSTER.

THE origin as well as the name of this city is to be dated from the foundation and relative situation of its abbey and the great church, or *minster*, attached to it. This establishment drew around it numerous dependents, and caused the neighbouring lands to be covered in process of time with a considerable town. But, though the seat of parliament, and possessing other privileges, Westminster owed still higher distinctions to the favour or caprice of Henry VIII., who converted the abbey which he had dissolved into a bishopric, appointing the whole county of Middlesex, excepting Fulham, which was a peculiar of the bishop of London, as the diocese of the new see. Thus did the place

acquire the dignity of a city. Henry also built the palace of St. James, and, as the old palace near the abbey had been destroyed by fire, he purchased Whitehall for his own residence, and enclosed the ground between the two palaces for a park. From this time Westminster rapidly increased in size and population; and, though the bishopric was dissolved by Edward VI. it has ever since retained through courtesy the title of city.

On the dissolution of the bishopric, the government of Westminster, as well in civil as ecclesiastical matters, devolved on the Dean and Chapter of St. Peter's, whose jurisdiction extends over the city and liberties of Westminster, the precinct of St. Martin's le Grand, in London, and some places in Essex. The civil authorities consist of the high steward, the deputy steward, and the high bailiff, who

are chosen by the dean and chapter. The latter usually purchases his office for a considerable sum : he presides at all public meetings, and is the returning officer at the election of representatives in parliament. There are also sixteen burgesses, each having his proper ward under his jurisdiction ; and a high constable, to whom all the other constables are subordinate.

Westminster has been described as consisting of the western and north-west suburbs of London. The first comprehends all the buildings stretching westward from Temple Bar, and from the western limits of the City, properly so called, and bounded on the north by Oxford Street, and on the south by the Thames. This division contains the royal palaces, the two houses of parliament, the courts of justice, almost all the government

offices, the residences of many of the nobility, and the principal theatres. The north-west suburb includes the streets and squares to the north of Oxford Street, and westward of Tottenham Court Road, in which are situated numerous habitations of the nobility and gentry. These two divisions are commonly called the west end of the town.

It is in this portion of our great metropolis that the most striking improvements have of late years been effected, and indeed are still in progress. Among these may be mentioned the formation of the Regent's Park and of Regent Street, a magnificent avenue from Pall Mall to the western side of that park, with its circuses and its quadrant; the alterations in Cockspur Street, and at the west end of the Strand, and the opening made there for Trafalgar Square: to say nothing

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St. Vitus's Cathedral

of the new squares northward of Portman Square, of the extensive improvements in progress on the estate of the Marquis of Westminster, in the rear of Grosvenor Place; of the new palace, the club-houses, Waterloo Bridge, the new markets of Covent Garden and Hungerford, the park entrances at Hyde Park Corner, and numerous churches. These buildings have so changed the aspect of this portion of the British capital, that many parts of it could not be recognised by one who had not seen it during the last quarter of a century.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

ONE of the grandest features of the city of Westminster is its abbey church, dedicated to St. Peter. Its site was anciently called

Thorney Island, from being surrounded by a branch of the Thames, which, running off near the upper end of Abingdon Street, to the west of Dean's Yard, rejoined the river between Cannon (Channel) Row and Privy Gardens. This island is said to have derived its name from having been overgrown with thorns before the foundation of the minster or church, which is ascribed to Sebert king of the East Saxons, in the first year of the seventh century. The Roman Catholic church, so fertile in legends, preserved the following tradition concerning the consecration of this first edifice, as related by Sulcardus, a monk of Westminster, an old copy of whose manuscript is deposited in the British Museum :

One stormy night, says the legend, St. Peter descended on the opposite shore of the Thames, and, calling on Edric, a fisherman,

desired to be ferried over to Thorney, which was then flooded round by heavy rains. The fisherman, having been promised a reward for his compliance, obeyed ; and St. Peter entered the church, whence immediately issued a light of such brightness as to convert the darkness of night into the splendour of noon-day. The Apostle then proceeded to consecrate the fabric, amidst a company of the heavenly host and a chorus of celestial voices ; and, whilst the most fragrant odours spread around, the wonders of the scene were increased by angels ascending and descending, as in Jacob's vision of old. The ceremony over, the awe-struck fisherman prepared to recross the river ; and on his return St. Peter revealed his sacred character and mission, and commanded him to make known to Mellitus, then bishop of London, all that he had seen and heard, and

to enjoin him to refrain from a second consecration. The fisherman, taking courage, then asked for his promised reward. St. Peter directed him to cast his net into the water, and presently he found himself repaid for his services by a miraculous draught of salmon. The Apostle, having assured him that neither he nor any of his brethren should ever want a supply of that kind of food, provided they made an offering of every tenth fish to the use of the newly consecrated church, disappeared from his sight. The bishop, being informed of this miraculous event, hastened to the church, where he found various convincing signs that the ceremony of consecration had really been performed ; and, in commemoration of the miracle, he ordered the name of the place to be changed from Thorney to Westminster.

The church was afterwards repaired and enlarged by Offa, king of Mercia, who also, we are told, collected a parcel of monks here. The foundation suffered greatly during the Danish invasions; was partially restored by King Edgar in 958; and the church was rebuilt by Edward the Confessor, as an atonement for the violation of his vow to make a pilgrimage to Rome. This was a very magnificent structure in comparison with the former edifice; and Edward, who only just survived its completion, was buried in it before the high altar. It is believed to be the first Saxon church built in the form of a cross, the earlier edifices of this kind having had no transepts.

The present church was built by Henry III. and his successor Edward I. as far as the extremity of the choir; but the nave and west

front were erected by different abbots, excepting the upper parts of the western towers, which were completed by Sir Christopher Wren. The monastery was dissolved by Henry VIII., restored by his daughter Mary, and again dissolved by Elizabeth, who in 1560 founded the present establishment for a dean, twelve secular canons, and thirty minor canons; to which was attached a royal school for forty boys, with a master and usher, twelve almsmen, an organist, &c.

This edifice is one of the finest examples of the pointed or Gothic style of architecture in the kingdom; and, excepting Salisbury cathedral, it is the most perfect of any remaining. Its total length is 530 feet, that of the transept 203, and the height of the western towers 225 feet.

On entering this venerable edifice from the

west, the interior produces a most striking effect, the view from that point being more extensive and unbroken, and the architectural character of the building more apparent, than from any other. The choir, which is fitted up for divine service, excites considerable interest from the grandeur of the perspective; it is entered from the nave under the organ gallery: there are also entrances to it from the transepts. Immediately behind the choir is the chapel of Edward the Confessor, containing the shrine and remains of its saintly founder, and monuments of Henry III. Edward I. and his queen Eleanor, Edward III. and his queen Philippa, Richard II. and his first consort Anne of Bohemia, and Henry V. The effigies of several of these royal personages are of cast metal, the splendid gilding of which is now covered with a thick coat of

dust and dirt. The mutilated figure of Henry V. of oak, was originally covered with engraved plates of gilt brass ; it is without head, which was of massy silver, and was stolen about the end of the reign of Henry VIII. Over the arched recess occupied by his tomb is a large and elegant chantry, in which are preserved the helmet worn by him at the battle of Agincourt, his shield, and his war-saddle. In 1774 the coffin of Edward I. was opened, and the body having been embalmed and completely covered with cere or waxed cloth, was found quite perfect. He was dressed in robes of cloth of gold, having on his head a gilt crown, in one hand a sceptre, and in the other a rod and dove.

Near the shrine of Edward the Confessor stands the chair constructed during the reign of Edward I. and in which the kings of Eng-

land since his time have been crowned, that solemn and magnificent ceremony being always performed in this church. Inclosed beneath the seat is the famous prophetic stone, brought by that king from the monastery of Scone, on which the kings of Scotland were anciently crowned. The people of that country firmly believed, that so long as this stone should remain in their possession, so long they should preserve their national independence ; but that the loss of it would be attended with great public calamity. Tradition relates that this relic, which is rough and of oblong form, was originally brought from Egypt, and that it served the patriarch Jacob for a pillow, at the time of his vision. The chair is of oak, rudely carved, and embellished with ornamental work and gilding. A second coronation chair was made,

in imitation of the other, for the queen of William III.

Without the choir are several small chapels containing numerous monuments of eminent persons; and in the aisles are memorials in mosaic work for several children of Edward the First, part of King Sebert's monument, and, among other monuments, one, admirable both for design and execution, of General Wolfe, the conqueror of Quebec.

In the north transept, against the wainscoting of the choir, stands the noble monument, by Westmacott, for Charles James Fox, whose ashes repose near the middle of this transept, within so short a distance of those of his illustrious political rival, William Pitt, that, as the poet observes—

Drop upon Fox's grave the tear,
'Twill trickle to his rival's bier;

On Pitt's the mournful requiem sound,
And Fox's shall the notes rebound ;
The solemn echo seems to cry,
“ Here let their discord with them die !”

In the same vault with the remains of Pitt are deposited those of his father, the first Earl of Chatham, and others of the family. Pitt's monument, the figures of which are of colossal size, is raised upon an arch above the great western doorway ; Lord Chatham's, standing in the north transept, is an admirable production, executed by the late John Bacon, for 6000*l.* voted by parliament ; but out of that sum he had to pay 700*l.* in fees to the dean and chapter for the space which it occupies, and permission to erect it. Near it is Nollekens' splendid cenotaph for the naval captains Bayne, Blair, and Lord Robert Manners, who fell in Rodney's engagement with De Grasse,

in the West Indies, in April 1782. The next inter-columniation is occupied by Flaxman's classical monument of the first Earl of Mansfield. The venerable judge is represented in his judicial robes, seated in a chair, attended by Justice and Wisdom, and at the back is an exquisitely beautiful personification of Death, in the figure of a youth, partly prostrate, and leaning on an extinguished torch.

Among the numerous monuments in the west aisle of the same transept, is Chantrey's recently-erected statue of Francis Horner, which, both for design and execution, will bear comparison with the best sculptures of modern times. Here is also a splendid cenotaph by Thomas Bacon for Sir Eyre Coote. The monumental busts of the Earl of Halifax, by Bacon, sen. ; Warren Hastings, by Bacon, jun. ; Dr. Boulter, primate of all Ireland, by Cheere ;

and others by Rysbrack and Scheemakers ; are of superior execution.

The north aisle of the choir contains many memorials for eminent musicians, naval officers, and others. Among those in the south aisle may be mentioned those of Pasquale de Paoli, Sir Cloutesley Shovel, Dr. Charles Burney, and Dr. Isaac Watts.

The south transept has been very appropriately named Poet's Corner, on account of the numerous poets and men of genius and science who are interred, or have memorials, there. It contains the monuments of Shakespeare, Chaucer, Spenser, Camden, Casaubon, Barrow, Ben Jonson, Milton, Butler, Sir Isaac Newton, Drayton, Cowley, Dryden, Addison, Gay, Pringle, Hales, Barrow, St. Evremond, Prior, Handel, Gray, Garrick, Rowe, Thomson, Anstey, and many others.

In the pavement are slabs in memory of old Parr, Davenant, Dr. Johnson, Chambers, Adams, Cumberland, and Sheridan.

Adjoining to the east end of the church is the magnificent chapel called, after the name of its founder, Henry the Seventh's. This monarch, who is charged with having resorted to the most unjustifiable methods of extorting money, appears in his declining years to have felt some compunctionous visitings of conscience, and to have thought it expedient to make his peace with Heaven, by expending a portion of his treasures in works of charity and devotion ; and also by instituting a perpetual observance of those rites and ceremonies, which, according to the doctrines of the Romish church, have power to obtain pardon for sin, even after death. Thus he directed ten thousand masses to be said for "the remission of his sins and the

weal of his soul," at the rate of sixpence each; and he ordered 2000*l.* to be distributed in alms, 300*l.* of which was to be expended in the release of poor prisoners. He had caused this chapel to be erected as a place of sepulture for himself and his family, and, only nine days before his death, which happened in April 1509, he delivered to Abbot Islip 5000*l.* "in redy money before the honde," for the purpose of completing the building. In his will he makes mention of this circumstance, and expressly calls the prior of St. Bartholomew's the "master of the works." The prior at that time was William Bolton, who is recorded by Speed to have been "a great builder," and whom we may hence conclude to have been the architect of this chapel, with as good reason as the work has been ascribed to others. Henry also left minute directions

for the construction and embellishment of the tomb that was to receive his remains and those of his queen, who had died some years before him.

This chapel, called by Leland "a wonder of the world," was completed in the year 1512, at the total expense, according to Holinshed, of 14,000*l.*, equal to at least 200,000*l.* at the present time. Its extreme length outside is 115 feet, and breadth 79 and a half. It is a rich specimen of the most florid style of pointed architecture. Every part of it is covered with sculptural decorations, "as though the artist had intended to give to stone the character of embroidery, and enclose his walls within the meshes of lace-work." The decorations of the interior are equally rich and beautiful.

In the middle of the chapel, within a

“closure” or screen, near the east end, is the tomb of Henry and his queen, executed under a speeial contract for 1500*l.* by Torregiano, an Italian artist, between the years 1512 and 1518. The pedestal is of black marble, but the recumbent figures of the royal pair, the pilasters, relievos, and other decorations, are of gilt copper, and must have originally made a magnificent appearance, though now discoloured by indurated dust. The surrounding screen, entirely of brass and copper, is one of the most elaborate specimens in open work that the founder's art ever produced. It is in the pointed style, and was both designed and executed by English artists.

Upon a raised flooring on each side of the nave is a row of oaken stalls, with elaborate pierced canopies; and below them, on the pavement, rows of seats, adorned with carvings,

some of which are extremely grotesque and ludicrous. These stalls and seats have long been appropriated to the use of knights of the Bath and their esquires; all installations since the revival of the order by George I. having been held in this chapel.

The vaulting of the nave, entirely of stone, has been justly termed a prodigy of art, so vast is its extent, so diversified the tracery, and so complicated the pendent decorations.

Besides the founder and his queen, the remains of all the British sovereigns, from Queen Elizabeth to George II. inclusive, with the single exception of James II. (who died and was buried at St. Germain in France,) have been deposited in the vaults beneath this chapel, together with many of their offspring, and others of royal blood. In the north aisle is the elegant monument of Queen Elizabeth,

which displays a fine effigy of that sovereign lying under a sumptuous canopy on a slab supported by lions ; and that erected for Edward V. and Richard Duke of York, the two sons of Edward IV. by command of Charles II. in whose reign the bones of two youths, supposed to be the remains of those princes, were discovered in the Tower, and removed to this chapel. In the south aisle are the monuments of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots ; the Countess of Lenox, mother of her equally ill-fated husband, Lord Darnley ; the Countess of Richmond, mother of Henry VII. ; and Monck, first Duke of Albemarle. The recumbent figure of the Queen of Scots is admirably executed in white marble ; that of the Countess of Richmond, of cast metal gilt, was probably the work of Torregiano, and executed from nature.

At the beginning of the present century, the exterior of this chapel was found to be in so ruinous a state, and the stone-work so much decayed, that the safety of the whole fabric was endangered. Application was therefore made to parliament for pecuniary aid, in order to its complete restoration in conformity with the original building. The repairs were commenced in 1809, and completed in 1822 ; they were executed entirely with Bath stone ; and the total amount of the grants voted for the purpose by the House of Commons exceeded 42,000*l.*

In July 1803, Westminster Abbey narrowly escaped destruction. Owing to the carelessness of some workmen who were repairing the leads of the roof, the top of the square tower in the centre of the cross aisles was set on fire. As the accident happened in the middle

of the day, it was perceived before much mischief had been done, and so prompt and effective were the means applied for the extinction of the flames, that the damage was confined to the top of the tower where the fire began.

The cloisters of the Abbey are nearly entire. They are situated on the south side of the church, from which two doors lead to them, and they are filled with monuments of eminent persons. The most remarkable for their antiquity are those of four abbots, who lived in the eleventh and twelfth centuries. On the east side is the entrance, through a vaulted passage, to the Chapter House, an octagonal building, erected in 1250, originally very lofty, with a pillar rising from the centre of the floor to the roof, and having arches springing from the walls of each angle and meeting

at the top. Here, by consent of the abbot, the Commons of England sat from 1377, till Edward VI. allotted the chapel of St. Stephen for their use. Only part of the central pillar now remains; and the building has been fitted up with galleries to contain the records of the crown, which are now deposited there. Among these is the celebrated statistical account of the whole kingdom, called Domesday Book, compiled in the time of the Conqueror. This venerable document, in two volumes, is in excellent preservation, and as legible as when first written.

The Deanery, originally the abode of the abbots of Westminster, contains several large and handsome apartments, among which is the Jerusalem Chamber, remarkable in history for having been the place where Henry IV. closed his ambitious career. Having swooned

while paying his adoration at the shrine of Edward the Confessor, in the abbey church, preparatory to his intended departure for Palestine, he was carried into this chamber. On recovering his senses and inquiring where he was, he received for answer “In the Jerusalem Chamber.” Feeling himself struck with death, he made that confession which Shakespeare has thus rendered :—

Sacred be God ! even then my life must end.
It hath been prophesied to me many years
I should not die but in *Jerusalem*,
Which vainly I supposed the *Holy Land* !

On the north side of the abbey was the church, which served for a sanctuary, or place of refuge, where in ancient times criminals of certain denominations were safe from the pursuit of justice. This church was in the form of a cross, and double ; one being built over

the other. It was supposed to have been erected by the Confessor; and the walls were of such strength, that its demolition was a work of great labour. Within its precincts, the widowed queen of Edward IV. took refuge with her younger son, to save him from the cruel Gloucester, who had Edward V. the elder, in his power. At the persuasion of the Duke of Buckingham and the Archbishop of York, the unhappy mother surrendered the child, who was instantly conveyed to his brother in the Tower, where they soon afterwards shared one common fate. Till the recent improvements in this part of the town, the spot on which this church formerly stood was known by the name of Broad Sanctuary.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL is supposed to owe its original foundation to Edward the Confessor, but was refounded, as at present constituted, in 1560, by Queen Elizabeth, for forty scholars, called king's scholars, a head and second master, and twelve almsmen. The entrance to the school is from Dean's Yard. What was formerly the abbot's hall is now the dining hall of the scholars ; the abbot's kitchen is likewise appropriated to their use ; and their dormitory was built about the middle of the last century, on the site of granaries originally erected by Abbot Littlington.

This seminary is divided into two schools, the upper and the lower, and is attended by the sons of many of the first nobility and

gentry, who pay for their education. These pay scholars amount to about five hundred. There are seven forms or classes. The masters have numerous assistants. The king's scholars, when qualified for the university, are elected to Christ Church, Oxford, and Trinity College, Cambridge. Many eminent men, both in church and state, have acquired the rudiments of knowledge at this establishment, over which several illustrious scholars have at different times presided. Among them may be mentioned Camden, the author of the Britannia ; Dr. Richard Busby, famous for his classical knowledge, and the severity of his discipline ; Dr. Markham, archbishop of York ; Dr. Vincent ; and Dr. Carey, late bishop of Exeter.

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WESTMINSTER HALL.

THE mass of buildings to which Westminster Hall belongs, occupy the site of the old royal palace of Westminster, which was erected by Edward the Confessor, and enlarged by succeeding monarchs. It stood close to the bank of the Thames, and included the spot still called Old Palace Yard, and part of Abingdon Street. The first hall was built by William Rufus, as a banqueting house to this palace; but it was pulled down and the present hall erected by Richard II. in 1397. Here, two years afterwards, that king kept Christmas with his characteristic magnificence, entertaining on each day of the feast ten thousand guests.

Westminster Hall is the largest room in Europe which is not supported by pillars, being 270 feet long, 74 broad, and 90 high. The venerable-looking roof, chiefly of chesnut wood, is highly admired as a curious piece of workmanship, decorated in many parts by the arms of Edward the Confessor and Richard II. It was formerly covered with lead, which, having been found too heavy, was removed, and slates were substituted in its stead. The pavement is of stone. This edifice was completely repaired and new fronted during the years 1820–1822. The principal entrance, at the north end, is flanked by embattled towers, adorned with niches for statues, as in the old front; but they are still unoccupied. On the west side of the hall are communications with the new courts of law and equity; at the southern extremity is an avenue into

New Palace Yard, and in the centre a passage leading into the House of Commons.

Parliaments have frequently met in Westminster Hall; and here in ancient times the king administered justice in person. The trial of Charles I. was held beneath its roof; and it is still used for the trial of peers or persons impeached by the Commons. Here too have been held for ages the feasts given at the coronation of the kings of England. On this occasion Westminster Hall is the scene of a peculiar ceremony. At the conclusion of the first course, a person called the king's champion, mounted on a white horse, and clad in a suit of white armour, rides into the hall, attended by his esquires and pages, richly apparelled. His herald proclaims that he is ready to meet in mortal fight any one who shall deny that the king is the lawful heir to

the crown ; on which the champion throws down his gauntlet in token of defiance. This challenge is thrice repeated. The champion then bows to the king, who pledges him in a golden cup and cover ; the champion then drinks, and taking the cup and cover for his fee, leaves the hall. This practice is supposed to have originated with William the Conqueror ; who, conscious of the weakness of his claim to the crown of England, had recourse to this method of convincing the vulgar of the validity of his right ; as they were always ready to believe a man's cause to be just, if he appealed to a trial by battle. The first champions were the Marmions, who followed the Conqueror from Normandy, and to whom he gave the manor of Scrivelsby, in Lincolnshire, to be held by that service. To them succeeded the Dymokes, who still hold that honour.

THE LAW COURTS.

ON the west side of Westminster Hall are the buildings recently erected from designs by Sir John Soane, for the Lord Chancellor's and Vice Chancellor's courts, which are spacious rooms, surmounted by cupolas, with convenient seats and galleries for suitors, students, and legal practitioners; and the courts of Common Pleas, King's Bench, and Exchequer, which are also judiciously arranged and handsomely decorated.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

ADJOINING to the south end of Westminster Hall are the buildings temporarily fitted up for the deliberations of the two houses of the legislature, out of the remains of those consumed by the calamitous fire of October 16th 1834.

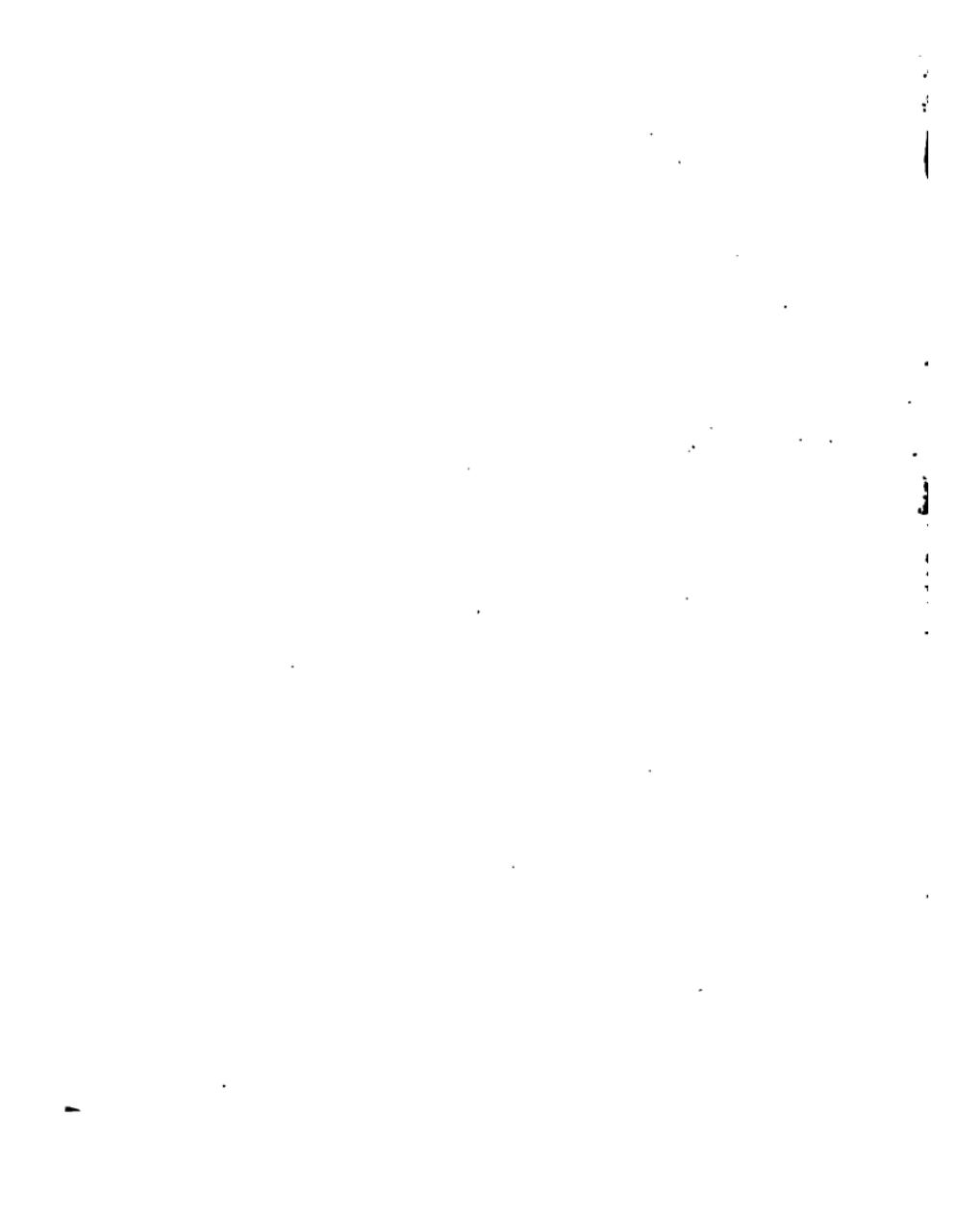
The front of the late House of Lords, in Old Palace Yard, had a colonnade connecting the two entrances, one for the king and his retinue on state occasions, and the other for the members of the house. The interior was hung with tapestry, representing the defeat of the Spanish Armada, the gift of the States of Holland to Queen Elizabeth. It was newly fitted up in 1820, and instead of the elevated arm-chair previously used for the seat of the



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sovereign on extraordinary occasions, a splendid throne was erected. It was covered by an immense canopy of crimson velvet, surmounted by an imperial crown, and supported by pillars richly gilt and decorated. The seats of the Lord Chancellor, who is by virtue of his office speaker of the House of Lords, of the judges, and officers, are wool-sacks, covered with crimson baize ; and the peers, ranged according to their rank, sit on benches covered with the same material. The archbishops, dukes, and marquesses sit on the right hand of the throne ; the earls and bishops on the left ; and the other peers on cross-benches in front. At the end of the house opposite to the throne there is a bar, without which sits the king's first gentleman usher, called black rod, from a black wand which he carries in his hand. Under him are

a yeoman usher, who waits at the inside of the door, a crier without, and a serjeant-at-mace, who always attends the Lord Chancellor.

On state occasions, when the king sits crowned on his throne, the lords sit uncovered, but the judges stand till his majesty gives them leave to be seated. When the king is not present, the lords, at their entrance, do reverence to the throne, as is done by all who enter the presence-chamber.

The House of Lords consists of the lords spiritual and temporal. The spiritual lords are the two archbishops and twenty-four bishops of England, and one archbishop and three bishops from Ireland. The temporal lords are indefinite in number, consisting of all the peers of Great Britain; of the sixteen elective peers of Scotland; and of the twenty-

eight elective peers of Ireland. The total number at present is about four hundred.

In giving their votes, the peers say *content* or *not content*, beginning with the lowest and ascending to the highest rank. They have the right of voting by proxy. When both houses have agreed to pass a bill, it cannot become law till it has received the royal assent, which is always given in the House of Lords, either by the king in person, or by commissioners of his appointment.

The House of Lords constitute the supreme judicature of the kingdom. They take cognizance of treason and high crimes committed by peers and others ; try all who are impeached by the Commons ; and acquit or condemn without taking an oath, merely laying the right hand on the breast and saying, *Guilty*, or *Not guilty, upon my honour*. Appeals may

be brought before them from all other courts ; and sometimes they even reverse the decrees of chancery.

Between the Houses of the Lords and Commons there was a long lofty apartment, called the Painted Chamber, the walls having been originally painted with the taking of Antioch, and other subjects, by command of Henry III. This room was used as the place for conferences between the two houses ; and here was signed the death-warrant of King Charles I.

Beneath the old House of Lords was the ancient kitchen of the palace of Edward the Confessor, where, in the beginning of James the First's reign, Guy Fawkes and the other Catholic conspirators had deposited gunpowder and various combustibles for the purpose of blowing up the king and the parliament, on the opening of the session. It is well known

that a letter to one of the peers led to a search and the detection of the plot, on the very eve of the day on which it was to have been carried into effect.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ADJOINING to the south-east angle of Westminster Hall was the late House of Commons, frequently called St. Stephen's Chapel, from having originally been a chapel founded by King Stephen, in honour of the martyr of the same name. It was rebuilt in 1347 by Edward III. who converted it into a collegiate church, under the government of a dean and twelve secular canons. For the use of this chapel the same king built in the Little Sanc-

tuary, westward, a strong bell tower for three large bells, which were rung at coronations and other particular occasions, and the sound of which was vulgarly believed to have the effect of souring all the beer in the neighbourhood. The last dean, Dr. John Chambré, physician to Henry VIII. and one of the founders of the Barber Surgeons' Company, built the beautiful cloisters, at the cost of eleven thousand marks. In the sixteenth century it shared the fate of similar foundations, and on its surrender to Edward VI. he assigned it to the Commons House of Parliament for the sessions of its members, to which purpose it has ever since been appropriated, until its recent destruction by fire.

This chapel, as rebuilt by Edward III. was of extraordinary beauty. When, after the union with Ireland, it was found necessary to

enlarge the edifice for the accommodation of the increased number of members, it was discovered that great part of the original decorations still remained. On the removal of the wainscot and ceiling, which had masked the sides and roof, these were seen to be most curiously wrought, and ornamented with a profusion of gilding and painting, displaying beautiful specimens of the fine arts as they existed in the reign of Edward III. The gilding was remarkably solid and highly burnished, and the colours vivid, both being as fresh in appearance as though but just executed. Beneath the house there were also, before the late fire, considerable remains in good preservation of an under-chapel of curious workmanship, together with one side of a cloister, the roof of which was scarcely surpassed in beauty by that of Henry VII.'s chapel. The

west front of the building, with its fine pointed arch window, was also entire; as was likewise a small court of the palace, belonging with its buildings to the official residence of the speaker, which suffered so much injury from the fire as to render it necessary to provide another house for that functionary.

At one end of the room in which the commons assemble, at some distance from the wall, is placed the chair of the speaker, decorated with gilding, and having the king's arms at the top. The speaker commonly wears a long black silk gown and a full-bottomed wig; but on state occasions a robe similar to the state-robe of the lord chancellor. Before him, at a small distance, is a table for the three clerks of the house, whose duty it is to make minutes of its proceedings, to read the titles of bills, and to hand them to the

speaker. On this table lies the ensign of his office, the mace, when the house is formally sitting ; but when the house is in committee it is placed under the table, and the perpetual chairman to the committees of the whole house takes the chair where the clerk of the house usually sits.

The House of Commons consists of 658 members, who are elected by the different counties, cities, and boroughs ; they have no particular seats, except those for the city of London, who have a right to sit on the speaker's right hand ; a privilege of which they rarely avail themselves but on the first day of a session. The seat on the floor, on the right hand of the speaker, is usually occupied by the principal members of the administration, whence it is called the Treasury Bench ; and on the opposite seat are ranged the lead-

ers of the opposition. The speaker retains his hat, unless on particular occasions. All the members must be seated excepting the one addressing the chair, who is uncovered ; at other times they wear their hats or not at pleasure. Forty members must be present to constitute a house, and eight a committee.

The members vote by aye and nay. When it is doubtful which party forms the majority, the house divides. If the question relates to anything already before the house, the nays go out ; but, if the object is to bring in anything, as a bill or petition, the ayes retire : the speaker appoints two tellers of each opinion to count the numbers on either side, and according to their report he declares the majority. In a committee of the whole house they divide by changing sides, the ayes taking the right hand of the chair and the nays the

left, and in this case there are but two tellers. The speaker is not allowed to vote unless the house be equally divided, when his vote, of course, decides the question ; neither can he take any part in a debate, his only duty being to keep order in the assembly, and to enforce the regulations and usages of the house.

All bills relating to the imposition of taxes or the expenditure of the public money must originate in the House of Commons. Any member may move for leave to bring in a bill ; if the motion is agreed to by the house, the mover and some of his supporters are ordered to prepare and bring it in. Every bill must be read three times for discussion ; and when it has passed through this ordeal in one house it is introduced in the other.

There is a gallery in the House of Com-

mons for the accommodation of a very limited number of visitors and of the reporters for the newspapers; though the standing orders absolutely forbid either the presence of strangers or the publication of its proceedings; but they are liable to be obliged to withdraw at a moment's warning, on the motion of any member.

During the sway of the Saxons, the affairs of the kingdom were regulated in national councils, and these councils were to be held twice in every year; but the commons of England, as represented by knights, citizens, and burgesses, were not specifically named till the latter years of the reign of Henry III. when Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, caused them to be duly summoned, for the purpose of employing their influence to counteract the arbitrary domination of the crown. It was

enacted in the fourth year of Edward III. that “a parliament should be holden every year twice, and more often if need be;” and this continued to be the statute law, though frequently violated by the sovereign, until after the restoration of Charles II. An act was then passed for the assembling and holding parliaments once in three years at least, and this act was confirmed by William and Mary after the revolution of 1688. In the first of George I. it was enacted that the duration of parliament should be extended to seven years; and in spite of the attempts since made to restore triennial parliaments, this regulation still continues in force.

The fire which destroyed both houses of parliament, as it has been already mentioned, was occasioned by want of proper caution in burning the old wooden tallies, formerly used

in the court of exchequer, in a stove connected with the flues which warmed the House of Lords. By this accident that house, with its robing-rooms, several of the committee-rooms, and the painted-chamber, was totally destroyed. The library, the parliament offices, the office of the lord great chamberlain, and some other apartments in the same portion of the building, were saved. The House of Commons, with its libraries, and all the committee-rooms, excepting four, were also consumed. In a very short space of time, however, the ruins of the House of Lords, the bare walls alone of which had been left standing, were fitted up for the meetings of the commons ; and those of the painted-chamber, were converted into a place of assembly for the peers. The former arrangements of both were preserved.

NEW PALACE YARD.

IN the area now denominated New Palace Yard were anciently situated the buildings called Le Wolstaple; because the wool staple, or mart, was held there. This mart had been held for many years in Flanders, to the great detriment of the English merchants, when, in 1353, Edward III. caused the wool trade to be confined to his own dominions, and to be carried on at Westminster and other considerable towns. By this measure he brought wealth into the country, and considerably increased the royal revenue; for parliament granted him a certain sum on every sack of wool exported. Henry VI. had no fewer than six wool-houses here, which he gave to the dean and canons of St. Stephen's; and the concourse of persons to

this wool mart produced a corresponding increase of inhabitants, so that the royal village of Westminster attained the importance of a town.

Opposite to the gate of Westminster Hall stood a clock-house, or bell-tower, which is said to have owed its erection to the following circumstance. In the reign of Henry III. a poor man having been fined, in an action for debt, the sum of thirteen shillings and four pence, Radulphus de Ingham, chief justice of the King's Bench, pitying his case, caused the court-roll to be altered, and the fine to be reduced to six shillings and eight-pence. This alteration being soon discovered, Ingham was fined eight hundred marks; and that sum was expended in the erection of the bell-tower, in which were placed a bell and a clock, which, striking hourly, was intended to remind the judges in the hall of the fate of their colleague.

On the demolition of this tower in 1715, the great bell was given for the clock of the new cathedral of St. Paul, whither it was removed.

On the south side of New Palace Yard was situated the apartment called the Star Chamber, said to have been so denominated from the Jewish bonds, *starra*, deposited there by Richard I. Here met the Star Chamber commissioners, whose arbitrary decrees, in the time of Charles I. contributed not a little to produce the popular discontents which led to the civil war between that king and the parliament.

WESTMINSTER BRIDGE.

It is a remarkable fact, that, till the middle of the last century, the British metropolis had but a single bridge across the Thames. West-

minster Bridge was the second. The architect employed to erect it was M. Labelye, a Frenchman. The work was begun in 1739, and finished in 1750, at an expense of 389,500*l.*; about one-half of which sum was raised by three successive lotteries, and the other granted by parliament.

This bridge is built of Portland stone. It is 1223 feet long, and 44 wide; supported by fourteen piers, and thirteen large and two small semicircular arches. On the top of each pier, on either side of the pathway for pedestrians, is a semi-octangular recess; twelve of these recesses are covered with half-cupolas. The piers are built inside and outside of solid blocks of not less than a ton weight, and many of from two to five tons; each of the two middle piers containing 200 tons. The middle arch is 76 feet wide, the two others on each

side decrease in width by four feet, and, the same proportion being observed in the rest, the width of the last two is 52 feet ; the two smaller ones, close to the abutments, being each about 25 feet in width. The free water-way between the piers is about 870 feet.

During the erection of this bridge, one of the piers, by sinking, damaged the arch to which it belonged so much, that the commissioners had determined to pull it down ; but by laying twelve thousand tons of cannon and leaden weights on the lower part of the pier, the foundation was settled and set to rights in such a manner as to render it secure from any future accident of the kind.

WHITEHALL.

ON the spot now called Whitehall stood a mansion originally built by Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, justiciary of England in the reign of Henry III. At his death he bequeathed it to the monastery of the Black Friars, London, who in 1248 disposed of it to Walter de Grey, Archbishop of York. As the town residence of the prelates of that see, it acquired the name of York House. The last of them who possessed it was the munificent and haughty Cardinal Wolsey, on whose disgrace it was seized by Henry VIII. and thenceforth became the royal residence. No sooner had he obtained possession of this mansion, than, for its accommodation, and that of St. James's hospital, also just converted into a palace, he enclosed the

park ; built a magnificent gate from a design by Holbein ; added a spacious gallery for the convenience of the royal family, the nobility, and the great officers of state, to view the tournaments performed in the Tilt Yard ; and soon afterwards ordered a tennis-court, a cockpit, and bowling-greens to be formed, with other places for various kinds of diversions.

Thus it appears that the site of this palace occupied the space along the bank of the river, commencing with Privy Gardens and ending near Scotland Yard ; and extending westward from the Thames to St. James's Park, along the eastern border of which many of its buildings were situated, from the Cockpit, which it included, to Spring Gardens.

The successors of Henry VIII. continued to make Whitehall their place of residence ; and there is no reason to doubt the report of

Hentzner, the German traveller, that in the time of Queen Elizabeth “ it was a structure truly royal.” Here that princess feasted her vanity in the Tilt Yard. “ Here,” says Pennant, “ in her sixty-third year, with wrinkled face, red periwig, little eyes, hooked nose, skinny lips, and black teeth, she could suck in the gross flatteries of her favourite courtiers. Essex, by his squire, told her of her beauty and worth ; a Dutch ambassador assured her majesty that he had undertaken the voyage to see her, who, for beauty and wisdom, excelled all other beauties in the world. She laboured at an audience to make Melvil, the Scots ambassador, acknowledge that his charming mistress was inferior in beauty to herself. The artful Scot evaded her question. She put on a new suit of every foreign nation each day of audience to attract his admiration. So fond was

she of dress, that three thousand different dresses were found in her wardrobe after her death. . . . She was fond of dancing—I admire the humour she showed in using this exercise. Whenever a messenger came from her successor, James, to deliver letters to her from his master, on lifting up the hangings, he was sure to find her dancing affectedly to a little fiddle, that he might tell James how unlikely he was, from her youthful disposition, to come to the throne after which he was so eager."

Elizabeth had other diversions, which she pursued till a late period of her life. Thus we are told, that one day she appointed a Frenchman "to do feats upon a rope in the Conduit-yard;" and that next day she commanded the bears, the bull, and the ape, "to be bayted in the Tilt Yard."

In 1581 that queen gave here a most sumptuous tournament in honour of the commissioners sent from the Duke of Anjou to propose a marriage with her. A banqueting-house was erected at the expense of 1700*l.* and most superbly ornamented. “The gallerie adjoining to her majestie’s house at Whitehall,” says Holinshed, “whereat her person should be placed, was called, and not without cause, the castell or fortresse of perfect beautie.” The queen, who was then forty-eight years of age, expected all the flattery that the charms of eighteen might claim. “This fortress of perfect beautie was assailed by Desire and his four foster-children.” The combatants on both sides were persons of the highest rank; a regular summons was first sent to the possessor of the “castle,” in a “delectable” song; which ended, two cannons were fired off, one with

sweet powder and the other with sweet water: and after were store of prettie scaling-ladders, and then the footmen threw floures and such fansies against the wals, with all such devises as might seem fit shot for Desire." Desire was however repulsed, as if to prefigure the ultimate rejection of Anjou's suit, in spite of the queen's infatuation for him. For, though he was nearly twenty-five years younger than herself, Elizabeth appears to have been determined upon the match, and is even said to have taken up the pen to sign the marriage contract; but from this indiscretion she was saved by the remonstrances of her ministers, and the importunities of her maids of honour; who, as Camden informs us, spent the night in weeping and wailing round her bed.

In consequence of the ruinous condition of this palace in the time of James I. that mon-

arch determined to rebuild it on a magnificent scale, after designs by Inigo Jones. The new palace was to consist of four fronts, each having an entrance between two square towers. The length was to have been 1152 feet, and the depth 874. Within, it was to contain a large central court, and five of smaller dimensions ; but the only part of this plan ever executed was the present Banqueting House, which, after the destruction by fire of that erected by Elizabeth, was begun in 1619, and finished in two years, at the cost of 1700*l.* The ceiling was painted by Rubens : the subject is the apotheosis of James I. and chiefly indicative of that monarch's love of peace. For this work the artist was paid 3000*l.* by Charles I. and received the honour of knighthood. This painting was repaired by Kent, in the reign of George II. and again, about sixty years ago,

by Cipriani, who “had 2000*l.* for his trouble,” as Pennant was informed.

During the hostilities between Charles and the Parliament, Whitehall was seized by the latter, and in 1645 they passed a series of votes respecting the magnificent collection of works of art made by that sovereign. The fanatics ordered among other things, that “all such pictures and statues” at York House “as are without any *superstition*, shall be forthwith sold, for the benefit of Ireland and the north;” and that “all such pictures there as have the representation of the second person in Trinity, or of the Virgin Mary, shall be forthwith burnt.”

In front of the Banqueting House, in an enclosed court, now the public street, the scaffold for the execution of the unfortunate Charles was a few years afterwards erected. He had slept at St. James’s on the preceding night,

and walked on the fatal morning across the park to the place of execution, attended by his gentlemen, bareheaded. Ascending the great staircase, he passed through the long gallery to his bedchamber, there to await the final summons. He was then conducted along the galleries and the Banqueting House, through the wall of which a passage was broken, to the scaffold.

During the protectorate, Oliver Cromwell resided principally at Whitehall, where he exerted himself to preserve such parts of the royal collection as had not been sold or stolen ; and also purchased many of the late king's pictures, including the Cartoons of Raphael, now at Hampton Court.

After the restoration of Charles II. this palace was immediately occupied by that king, and it soon became the scene of the most open

and licentious profligacy. Of its general appearance M. de Rochford gives the following account in his "Travels," printed at Paris in 1672 :—

" Whitehall consists of a great court, surrounded by buildings without either symmetry or beauty worth mentioning, having a chapel, which occupies an entire face of that court, and looks towards the gate through which one enters, where, on the right hand, there is a great pavilion with many windows, which seems newly built, and fronts towards the place before the palace ; but on the side looking to the river there is a garden, in which is a parterre, many statues of marble and bronze well executed, and a terrace by the side of the river. These would be the most striking parts of this palace, were it not that on the other side there is this advantage, that

one may thence pass by means of a gallery which goes over the street into the great park, and the beautiful garden of St. James's."

At this period a superstitious notion prevailed that the royal touch was capable of curing the disorder called the king's evil. There were stated times for the performance of the ceremony; and when it is known that it was customary for the king to present a piece of money to each of the patients, it will not appear surprising that the applicants should be very numerous. Evelyn tells us, that in March 1684, so great was the concourse of people with their children "to be touched for the evil" at this palace, "that six or seven were crushed to death by pressing at the chirurgeon's door for tickets."

Charles II. expired at Whitehall in February 1685, and in the summer of the same

year, James, his brother and successor, who made no secret of his attachment to popery, commenced a new range of buildings on the garden side at Whitehall, including a *chapel* and apartments for the queen; but, on the arrival of the Prince of Orange in 1688, he quitted this palace and his throne for ever.

In 1691 an accidental fire consumed part of the buildings belonging to Whitehall palace; and in 1697 all that remained, with the exception of the Banqueting House and some inferior offices, was destroyed by a similar catastrophe.

In the reign of George I. the Banqueting House was converted into a chapel, and twelve clergymen, six from either university, were appointed to officiate a month each in due succession, with a stipend of 30*l.* yearly. It is now appropriated to the use of the Foot

Guards, and over the altar are placed the eagles and trophies taken from the French during the war in Spain and on the field of Waterloo. Here also, on Maundy Thursday, the king's bounty to poor and aged men and women is distributed.

In the area behind this edifice is a fine bronze statue of James II. by Grinling Gibbons.

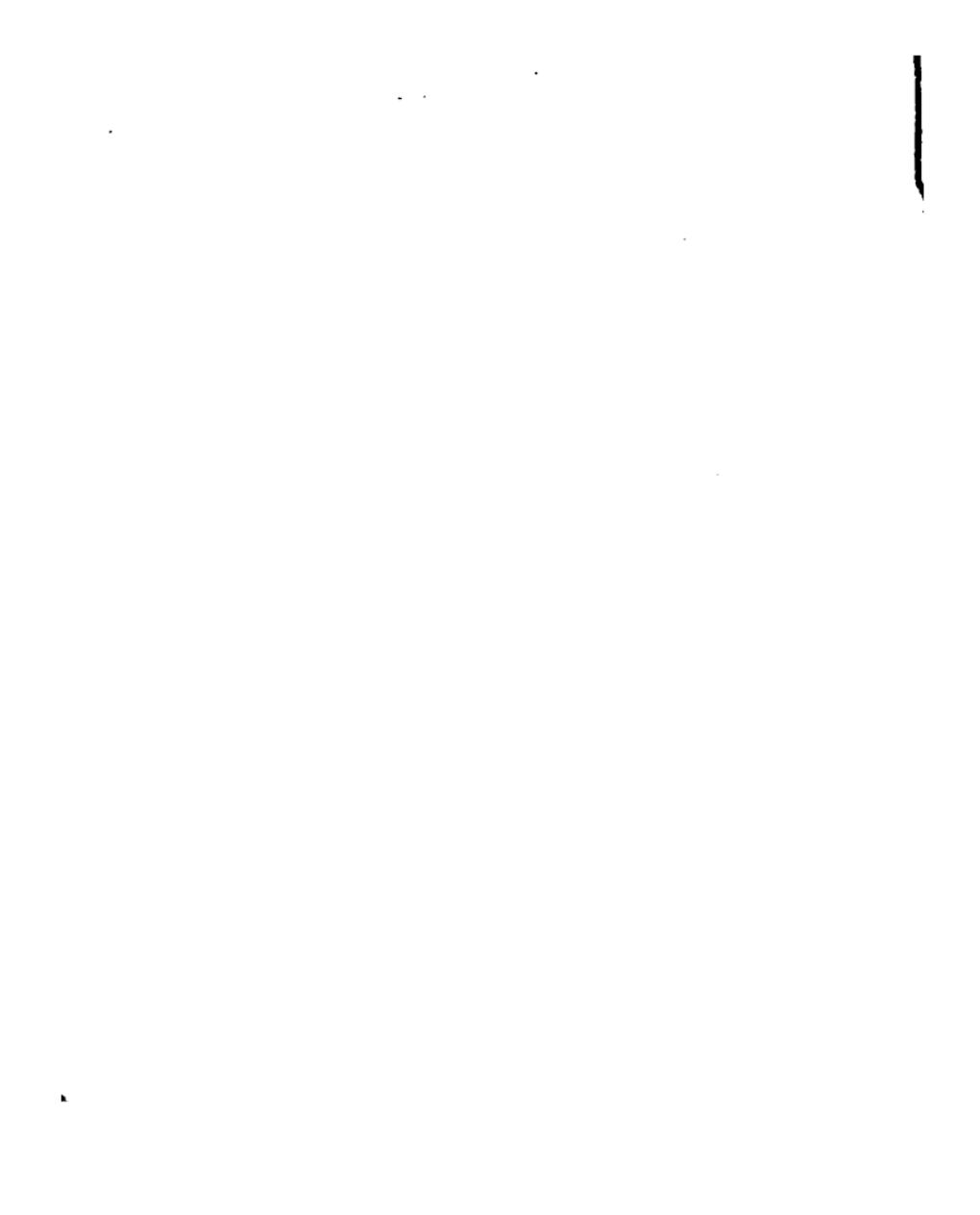
THE TREASURY.

At the south-western extremity of the street called Whitehall, has lately been erected the magnificent line of building exhibited in the annexed view, from designs by Sir John Soane. It is of the Composite order, and copied from the temple of Jupiter Stator at Rome. Though



1900

Palais des Tuilleries Paris France



this mass of building, extending backward to St. James's Park, goes under the general denomination of the Treasury, it comprises several other government offices, such as those appropriated to the board of trade, the privy council, &c. The park-front is accounted one of the most beautiful specimens of architecture in London.

The Treasury is under the government of six lords commissioners, and the first lord is always prime minister. His official residence in Downing Street has a front next to the park. In the same street are the offices of the secretaries of state for foreign affairs, and for the war department; whilst the offices for the home department are in a building at the northern extremity of the Treasury, purchased for that purpose of the Dorset family.

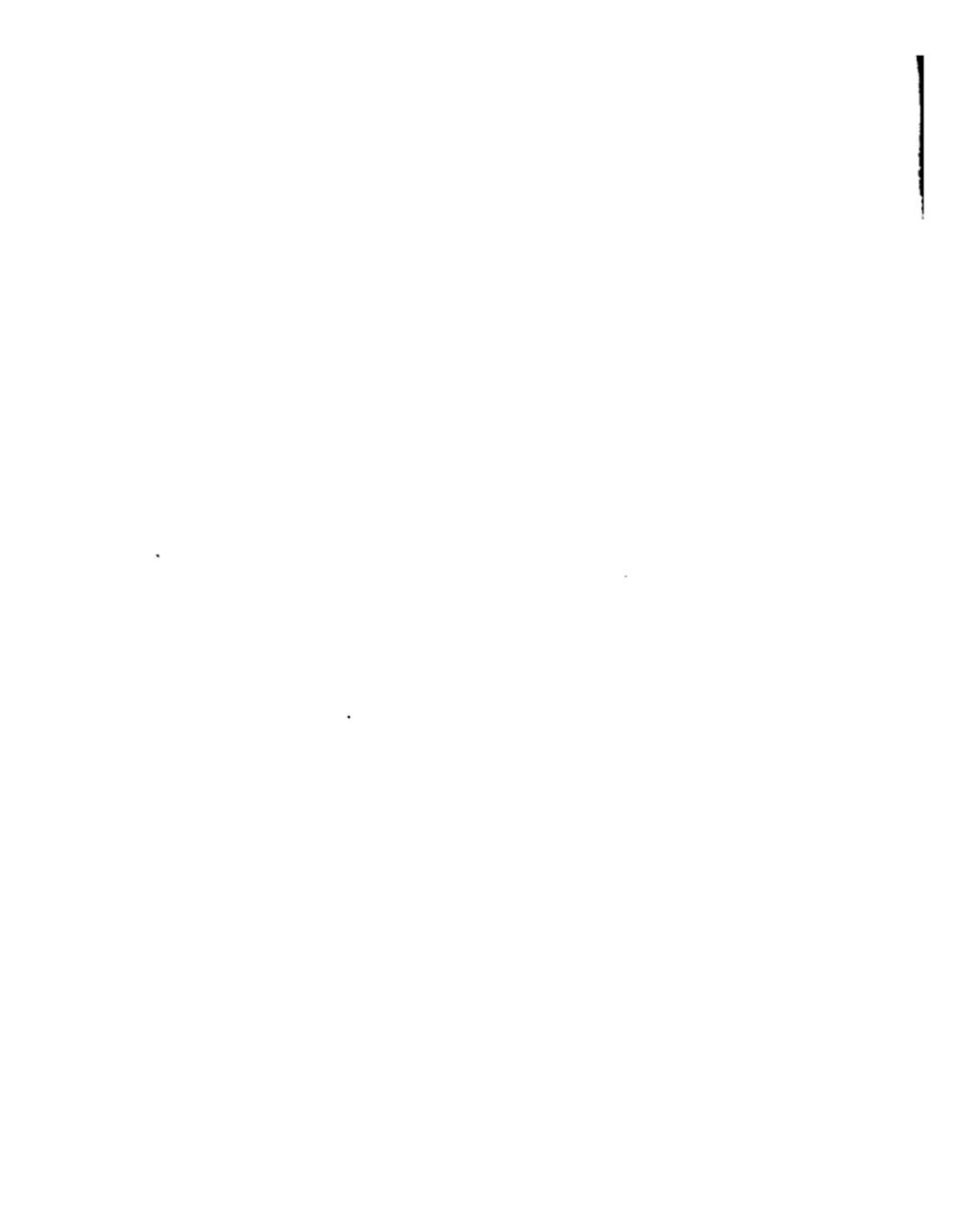
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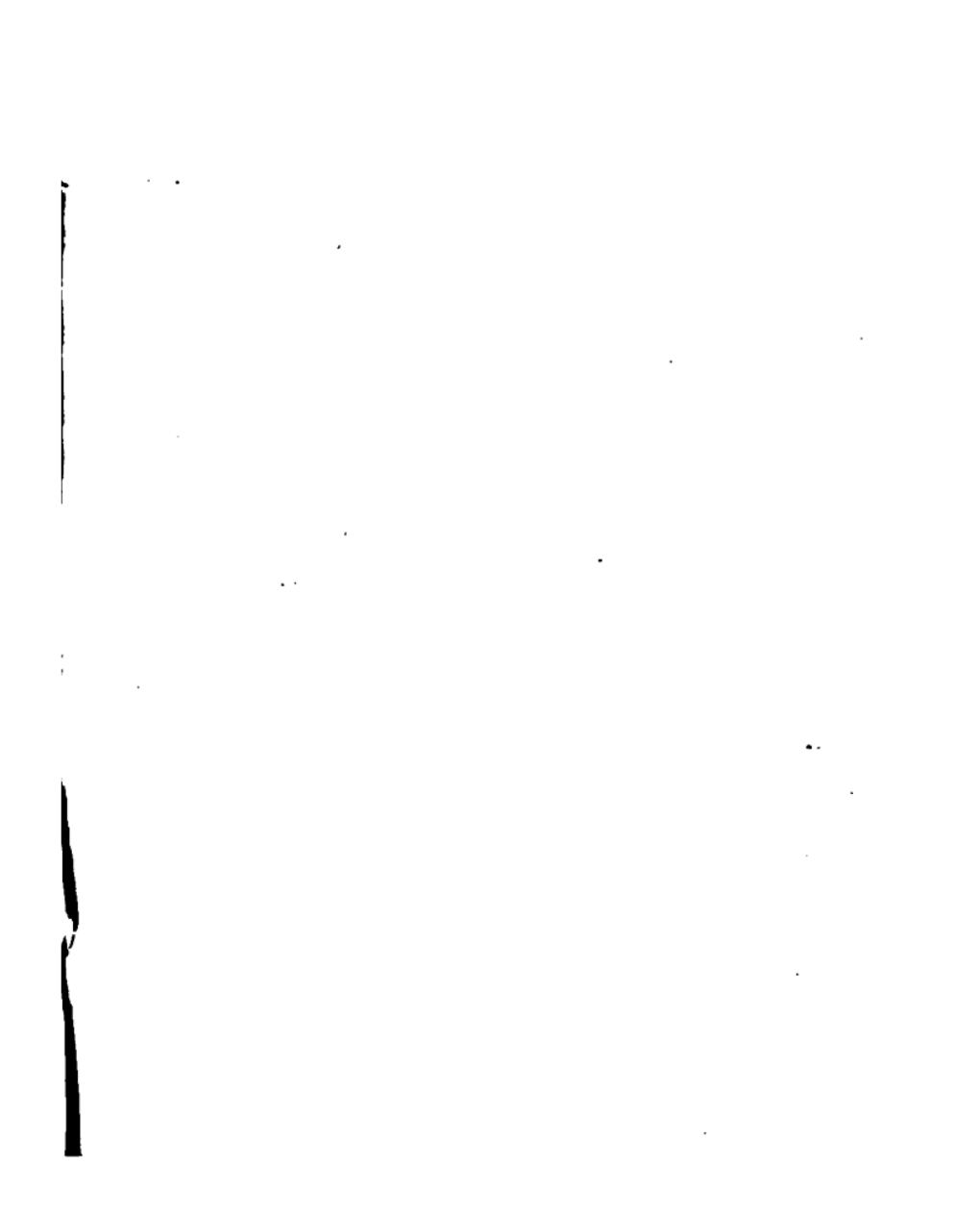
NORTHWARD of the edifices just described stands the War Office, commonly called the Horse Guards, from the circumstance of its being the station where that portion of the military is usually on duty. It is a plain, solid, but rather heavy-looking structure, built by Kent, about the year 1730, and cost 30,000*l.* It consists of a centre and wings; the principal front facing the park, being surmounted in the middle by a cupola, containing an excellent clock. Under the centre are archways from the park to Whitehall, through the principal of which the king passes when he goes in state to the house of peers. In the street-front there is a handsome gateway, at the sides of which are two small

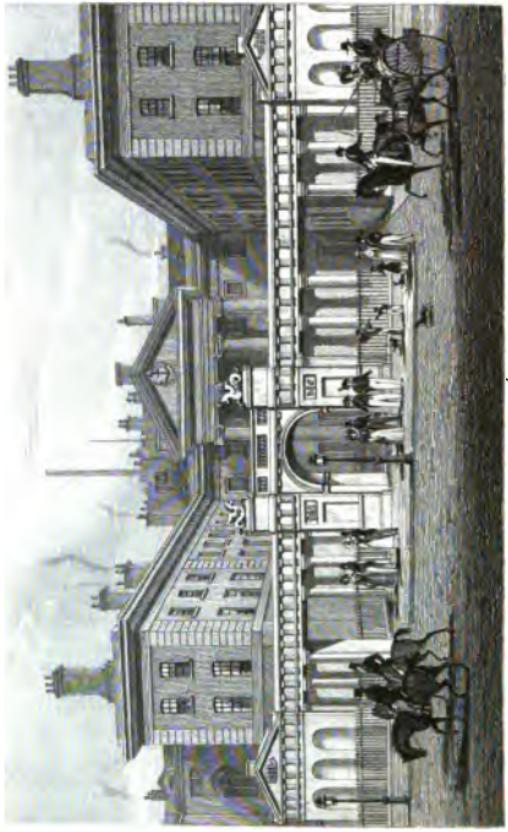
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stone pavilions, where sentinels equipped in full uniform mount guard during the day.

In this building is transacted, in a great variety of departments, the whole business of the British army ; and here also are the orderly rooms for the three regiments of Foot Guards ; a portion of which force parades every day before the park-front of the building, and the fine band of music which accompanies the spectacle, renders it highly attractive.

THE ADMIRALTY.

THE site of this edifice was formerly occupied by Wallingford House, built in the early years of the reign of Charles I. by Viscount Wallingford. It was from the roof of this

mansion that the pious Archbishop Usher was persuaded to take a last view of Charles I. to whom he was strongly attached, when he was led out on the scaffold before Whitehall. He sank overpowered with horror at the sight, and was borne insensible to his apartment.

In the reign of William III. this house was purchased for the Admiralty Office, and it was rebuilt under George II. by Ripley. It is a commanding building, of brick and stone ; having a fore-court separated from the street by a stone screen and gateway, adorned with naval emblems. The front consists of a very lofty portico, supported by four massy stone pillars, of the Ionic order, and two deep advancing wings. On the top of the edifice is a telegraph for communicating orders and intelligence to the principal ports of the kingdom.

The business of this department is under

the direction of five lords commissioners, who have here spacious abodes, and the principal of whom is styled first lord of the admiralty. The whole navy of the united kingdom is under the control of this board, which nominates all the officers of his majesty's ships of war.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

St. James's Palace, situated on the north side of the park named after it, was originally an hospital founded by devout citizens of London, before the Conquest, for fourteen leprous females. It was subsequently endowed with lands in Westminster, Hampstead, Hendon, and other places; and a brotherhood of six chaplains and two laymen was added

for the celebration of divine and other services. Edward I. conferred on this establishment the privilege of a yearly fair to last seven days. In the reign of Henry III. the hospital was rebuilt by the Abbot of Westminster; and in 1450 the perpetual custody of it was granted by Henry VI. to Eton College, in exchange for the living of Chattisham, in Suffolk. Its favourable situation having attracted the notice of Henry VIII. he persuaded the college to relinquish its right to him, and to accept Chattisham again as an equivalent. He then dismissed the inmates, to whom he granted pensions; erected upon its site "a goodly palace," and formed the park by inclosing the adjoining lands with a brick wall.

It is conjectured that Holbein furnished the plan for "St. James's Manor House," as the new palace was then called. Only a small

part of Henry's building now remains; and from the initials H. A. united by a knot, which appear among the decorations of this portion, it is conjectured that this palace was erected for the reception of Anne Boleyn.

In 1610 the house and manor of St. James's were granted to Henry Prince of Wales, on whose death, two years afterwards, they reverted to the crown. Charles I. made various additions to this palace, in which most of his children were born. Here he formed a gallery of statues, and fitted up part of the original mansion as a chapel royal. Hither he was brought from Windsor on the 19th of January preparatory to his trial. Some of the eleven days which he was yet permitted to live he spent in Westminster Hall, and of the nights in the contiguous house of Sir Robert Cotton. On the 27th, after his sentence, he was re-

moved to his bedchamber at Whitehall, where he remained till the 29th, when he was taken back to St. James's : on the morning of his execution he attended divine service in the chapel, and walked, unmoved by every insult, with a firm step to the last scene of his sufferings.

The queen's chapel, now called the German chapel, was erected for Catharine of Braganza, queen of Charles II. after whose restoration, his brother, the Duke of York, resided at St. James's. It was for one of the apartments of this prince that Sir Peter Lely painted the famous pictures of the Court Beauties, which now adorn the palace of Hampton Court. In 1688, when William Prince of Orange arrived in London, James II. made him an offer of this palace for his residence. It was accepted ; but at the same time a hint was conveyed to the king that his

future residence at Whitehall would be dangerous. James profited by the notice, and precipitately quitted his throne and kingdom. William was immediately proclaimed king, and, as he preferred Hampton Court for a residence, St. James's was assigned to his sister-in-law, the Princess Anne, and her consort George Prince of Denmark.

On the destruction of Whitehall, a few years afterwards, as already related, there was no place in London fit for the reception of the court but this palace, which became the principal residence of our succeeding monarchs. In the reign of Queen Anne it was much enlarged : Caroline, queen of George II. died at St. James's. On the accession of George III. some of the state-rooms were enlarged ; his eldest son, the late king, was born here ; and during his long reign the court continued

to be held at St. James's, though he made Buckingham House his domestic residence. In January 1809 an accidental fire destroyed almost all the buildings at the east end of this palace, including the private apartments of their majesties and those of the Duke of Cambridge. In 1822 a general alteration and repair of this edifice took place, and a magnificent banqueting-room was formed out of the old ball-room.

St. James's Palace is an extensive and irregular pile of building, principally of brick incorporated with the stone remains of the ancient hospital. The principal entrance, fronting St. James's Street, is by a lofty gate-house, opening into a quadrangular court, with a colonnade on the west side. At the garden entrance, opposite to Marlborough House, an insane woman, named Margaret

Nicholson, made an attempt on the life of George III. by striking at him with a knife, which she had concealed behind a pretended petition. The blow was fortunately warded off by a page; and the lunatic was consigned to Bedlam, where she died in 1828.

On entering by the principal court, a staircase leads to the king's guard-room, which is decorated with weapons of different kinds, systematically arranged in various figures. Here, on state occasions, the yeomen of the king's guard, in their ancient picturesque costumes, and armed with battle-axes, are in attendance. A small chamber, containing some beautiful tapestry, then leads to a suite of three principal rooms, the furthest of which is the grand presence-chamber. These apartments are fitted up with the utmost splendour and adorned with valuable pictures. The

presence-chamber surpasses them all in size and magnificence. At one end of it is the throne, consisting of a superb state chair, elevated on three steps, and surmounted by a canopy composed chiefly of rich crimson Genoa velvet, trimmed with gold lace. Beyond this chamber are the king's closet and dressing-room ; in the former, which is splendidly decorated, his majesty gives audience to his ministers, the foreign ambassadors, and the members of his own family. The new banqueting-room is superbly fitted up, and furnished in the style of Louis XIV.'s time. In the rooms of the ground-floor, which include the private apartments of his majesty, there is a fine collection of pictures.

The other parts of this palace are very irregular in their form, and consist chiefly of connecting courts. Portions of these build-

ings were formerly occupied by different branches of the royal family; and the Duke of Cumberland still has apartments in the west court, next to the Stable Yard. The royal chapel is a detached building at the east end of the palace: its establishment consists of a dean, usually the Bishop of London, a lord almoner, a sub-dean, and forty-eight chaplains, who preach in turn before the royal family. There are also twelve gentlemen of the chapel, two organists, ten choristers, and other inferior officers.

St. James's Palace is constantly protected by a military guard of honour, belonging to one of the three regiments of Foot Guards. It is relieved every forenoon in the principal court of the palace, where the ceremony of delivering the keys and exchanging the regimental standard, together with the perform-

ance of the bands, generally attracts a considerable concourse of spectators.

THE NEW PALACE.

At the commencement of the last century there stood at the western extremity of St. James's Park a mansion called Arlington House, which, having been purchased and rebuilt by John Sheffield, Duke of Buckingham, received the name of Buckingham House. In 1762 it was bought by George III. and thenceforth became his town residence. In 1775 it was settled by act of parliament on the queen, in lieu of Somerset House, in case she should survive her royal consort. For some years after her majesty's decease this building re-



1860

1860



mained unoccupied ; at length, in 1825, it was resolved that it should be converted into a palace befitting the monarch of a great nation, and parliament voted the sum of 250,000*l.* for alterations and additions. The work was immediately commenced, but so erroneous was the calculation of the architect, and so important were the changes in the original plan, that the expense of the building alone has amounted to nearly 700,000*l.* ; and by the time it is suitably furnished it will have cost the nation at least one million sterling. The whole exterior of this immense pile is of stone, and adorned with statues and basso-relievos. The east front consists of a centre, from which projects a large and lofty portico, and of two long advancing wings ; displaying a rich mass of architectural forms and sculptured adornments. The area before this front is bounded by a semi-

circular railing, bronzed and gilt, in the centre of which there is a triumphal archway, designed in imitation of the famous arch of Constantine at Rome; formed entirely of polished white marble, and gorgeously decorated with sculpture. The western, or garden front, has a semicircular centre and two corresponding wings, enriched with all the adornments that architecture and sculpture can bestow. The interior decorations are of corresponding magnificence: both the state rooms and the private apartments of royalty are on a grand scale, and they will be embellished with the choicest works of the fine arts, as well as the most gorgeous productions of the artisan.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

ST. JAMES'S PARK, which is overlooked by the new as well as the old palace, was originally inclosed, as we have seen, by Henry VIII.; it was much enlarged and improved by Charles II. who employed the famous French gardener, Le Nôtre, to plant the avenues, and to make the canal, and the aviary adjoining to the Bird Cage Walk, which derived its name from the cages that were then hung in the trees. Here, as we are told by Cibber, Charles might often be seen, among crowds of spectators, feeding his ducks, playing with his dogs (a peculiar breed of the spaniel, named after himself,) and passing his idle moments in affability even to the meanest of his subjects, which caused him to be adored by the common people. It is further related, that

at this time there was at the east end of the park a swampy retreat for the king's ducks, thence denominated Duck Island ; which the merry monarch erected into a government, and conferred it, with a salary, on the celebrated French writer St. Evremond, the first and last governor. The same prince formed the Mall, as the present vista is still named, but which was then a smooth hollow walk, with a skreen of wood on each side, constructed for the purpose of playing at a certain game with a ball, which was struck with a sort of club called a mall through an iron hoop fixed at one end.

This park, which is about a mile and a half in circumference, has been lately laid out as a pleasure garden, interspersed with lawn, clusters of shrubs and flowers, and gravel walks. The uniform canal has been converted into a piece of water, the margin of which is made to

wind with every inequality of surface, occasionally spreading into a broad expanse, embracing islands covered with aquatic plants and shrubs, or contracting into a narrow arm. Thus improved, the interior of St. James's Park forms a delightful promenade, which is accessible during the day to all persons of decent appearance.

At the north-east corner of this park stood Carlton House and gardens, the residence of his late majesty before his accession to the throne. When the new palace was commenced this edifice was demolished, and on its site has been erected a line of magnificent mansions, overlooking the park, besides other buildings, including two of the most conspicuous of the many new Club Houses which have of late years sprung up in this part of the metropolis. These belong to the Athenæum and the United

Service Club, and are very handsome edifices, the former numbering a thousand and the latter fifteen hundred subscribers. The Athenæum in particular, built from the designs of Mr. D. Burton, at an expense of 40,000*l.* possesses great architectural beauty, both externally and internally. Immediately adjoining is a house, recently completed from designs by Mr. Barry, for the Travellers' Club, the arrangements and execution of which are highly creditable to the architect. The total number of members belonging to the different Club-houses amounts to about fifteen thousand.

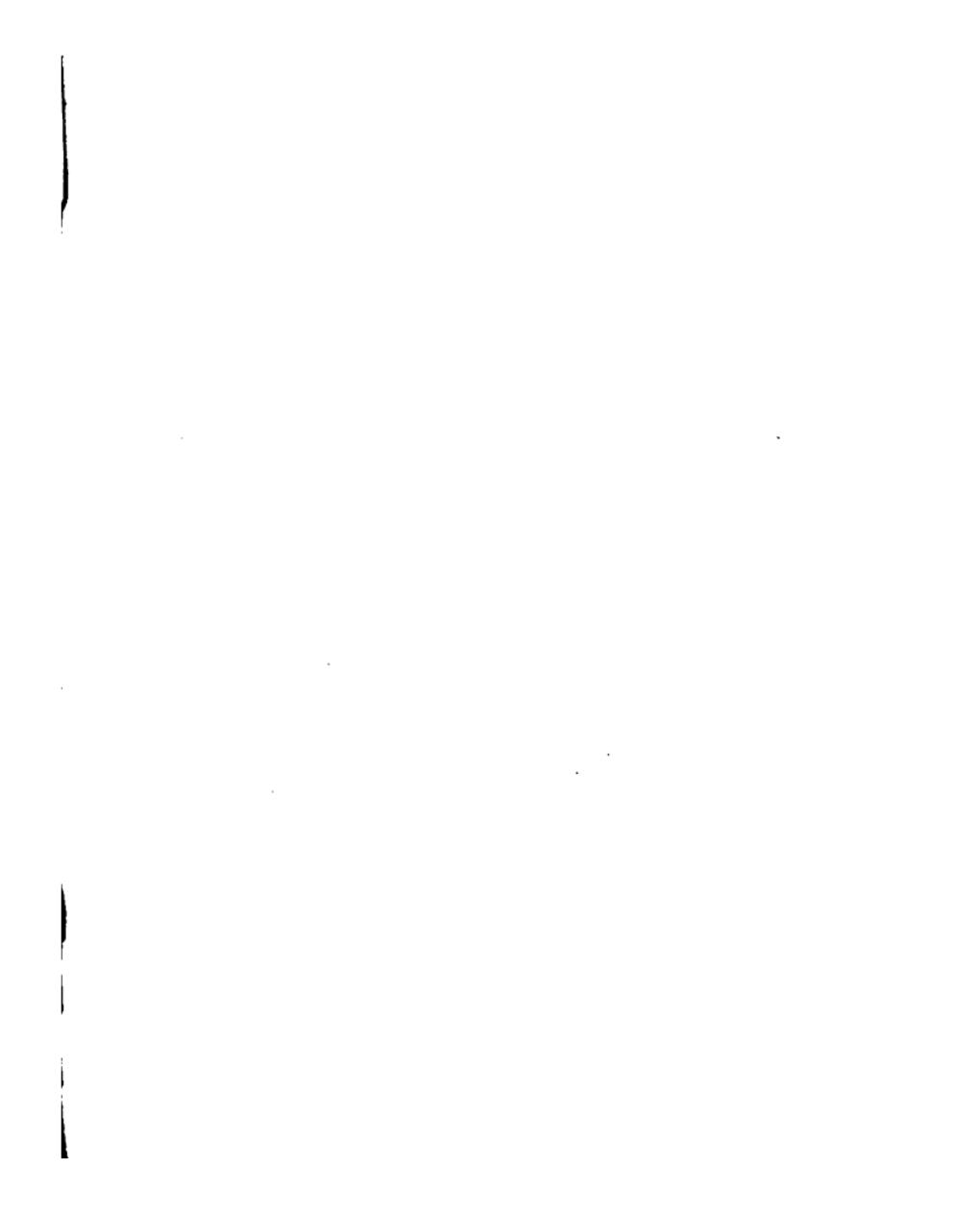
Here too has been formed a new and spacious entrance, consisting of three flights of steps, on the top of which stands a lofty column raised in memory of the late Duke of York by public subscription, and in height, form, and proportion resembling the column of Trajan at

Rome. It is constructed of Scotch granite, with stairs cut out of the solid stone, and surmounted by a statue of the royal duke.

On the north side of the Parade in this park, near the Admiralty, is placed a Turkish piece of ordnance of extraordinary length, brought from Alexandria in Egypt by the British army. The carriage, of English construction, is adorned with appropriate devices. Opposite to it is a small piece without ornament, taken from the French at Waterloo; and in front of the gate of the Horse Guards is fixed one of the mortars employed by the French to throw shells into Cadiz, which, after their retreat, was presented by the Cortes to the late king, then prince regent.

THE GREEN PARK.

THE Green Park originally belonged to that of St. James's, from which it is separated only by an iron railing. The east side is bordered by the town mansions of many of the nobility, among which that of the Duke of Sutherland (built for the late Duke of York) and Earl Spencer's are the most conspicuous. At the north-east angle there is a fine piece of water, the sides and bottom of which are of solid masonry, so constructed that the basin may be easily cleansed; the water contained in it being destined to contribute to the supply of the new palace. On the rising ground on the north side stands the house of the deputy ranger of St. James's and Hyde Parks.





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HYDE PARK CORNER.

THE west end of Piccadilly, where on one side the Green Park terminates, and on the other Hyde Park begins, is called from the latter Hyde Park Corner. This is indisputably the most magnificent entrance to the British capital. In the annexed view, on the right is represented the superb gateway, built from the designs of Mr. D. Burton, intended for the entrance to the gardens of the new palace, but now degraded into a station-house for the police. On the left is shown the elegant screen gate to Hyde Park, designed by the same architect, with its three archways, through which is seen the colossal statue erected by a subscription of ladies in honour of the Duke of Wellington; and be-

yond it is the splendid mansion of that unrivalled military commander. The more distant masses of building consist of houses occupied by persons of rank and distinction.

The new Hospital of St. George, which is not included in the annexed view, contributes its share to the general effect which this spot produces on the spectator. It is a handsome and commodious building, from designs by Mr. Wilkins. Its eastern front is 210 feet in length, and the northern 190. The interior is divided into 29 wards, capable of containing 460 beds. The lecture-room will accommodate 130 students; and there is a museum for anatomical preparations. This establishment is supported by voluntary donations and subscriptions.

HYDE PARK.

THE ground occupied by this park anciently belonged to the abbot and canons of Westminster Abbey, by whom it was exchanged with Henry VIII. for other lands. Though still the largest of the royal parks contiguous to the metropolis, it was originally much more extensive. In the time of Charles I. when the parliament seized the possessions of the crown, it contained 620 acres; and was sold, with the timber and the deer, with which it was well stocked, for about 17,000*l.* On the restoration of Charles II. the crown resumed possession of this park as its rightful property. Its extent has since been greatly reduced by the inclosure of Kensington Gardens, so that at present it contains no more than 395 acres.

To supply the deficiency of wood complained of in this park, many plantations have been lately formed. At the west end of it, the natural beauty of the spot is heightened by a fine piece of water, still called the Serpentine River, although formed in 1730 into a wide straight canal, by enlarging the bed of a stream which, rising at Hampstead and running through the park, falls into the Thames at Ranelagh. At its east end is an artificial waterfall, constructed in 1817, and on the north side are the keeper's lodge and garden. An elegant bridge was some years since constructed across the river in the path pursued by pedestrians to Kensington Gardens. On the south-west side, adjoining to Knightsbridge, are the barracks of the Life Guards.

At three out of the five entrances to this

park beautiful lodges have recently been erected. It is open every day, from six in the morning till nine at night, for pedestrians, horsemen, and all carriages, excepting hackney or stage-coaches ; and the concourse of gay equipages and of people of all classes, on horseback and on foot, especially on Sundays, from March till July, produces a scene of extraordinary interest and animation.

Reviews were frequently held in this park during the war. Here, in 1799, George III. reviewed the volunteers of London ; in 1814 a splendid spectacle of this kind was exhibited in honour of the Emperor of Russia, the King of Prussia, and their illustrious attendants ; and in July 1830, William IV. and the queen graced a similar occasion with their presence, when the troops were reviewed by the Duke of Wellington.

KENSINGTON PALACE.

THE palace of Kensington, though not strictly speaking in Westminster, is so near that part of the British metropolis, that it could scarcely be omitted in a work which professes to treat of its public buildings.

In the seventeenth century this edifice was the seat of Lord Chancellor Finch, afterwards Earl of Nottingham, of whose son it was purchased by William III. That king greatly improved the building, and his queen enlarged the gardens, which originally contained only twenty-six acres. Queen Anne added thirty more; and they were further enlarged by Caroline, consort of George II. under whose direction nearly 300 acres were taken in from Hyde Park, and the Serpentine River formed.

These spacious gardens, now about two miles and a half in circumference, were laid out from the designs of Bridgman, Kent, and Brown, who are considered as the inventors of the modern art of landscape gardening. They are open to the public, and are much frequented, especially on Sundays, by all classes of the inhabitants of the metropolis.

The palace, situated at the south-west corner of these beautiful grounds, is an irregular brick building, of plain appearance, but contains a handsome suite of twelve state apartments, the entrance to which is on the west side. These apartments are adorned by numerous pictures, many of which are by the first masters. The grand staircase and the ceilings of all the state-rooms are covered with paintings by Kent.

Kensington was the favourite residence of

King William and his successors. In the apartment called the Green Closet, which William used for his writing cabinet, are still preserved his table and escritoire. Queen Anne frequently supped in the beautiful green-house on the north side of the palace; and Caroline, queen of George II., caused a chair to be placed for herself on an artificial mount, near the present entrance to the gardens from Hyde Park, so contrived that it could be easily turned round for shelter from the wind. The mount itself was removed only a few years since.

King William, Queen Anne, her consort Prince George of Denmark, and George II. expired in this palace. Since the death of the latter, which was awfully sudden, it has been forsaken by our sovereigns. The late Queen Caroline, when Princess of Wales,

resided here; and at this time the Duke of Sussex, and the Duchess of Kent and her daughter, the Princess Victoria, heir-presumptive to the crown, have apartments in this palace.

CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

IN the parish of Chelsea, adjoining to that of Kensington, and on the bank of the Thames, is situated that noble foundation for invalid soldiers, Chelsea Hospital, also called Chelsea College. It derives the latter appellation from the circumstance of its occupying the site of a college, founded in the reign of James I. for the study of divinity and the advancement of the Protestant religion, but

which, having failed for want of due support, had escheated to the crown.

The original project of this national institution is attributed to Sir Stephen Fox, the ancestor of the noble house of Holland, who said, that he “could not bear to see the common soldiers, who had spent their strength in our service, reduced to beg,” and towards the execution of his humane project he gave 13,000*l.* Tradition has also ascribed the foundation of this hospital to the humane persuasions of Nell Gwynn, the celebrated favourite of Charles II.; and it is not at all improbable that she may have used her influence with that monarch in favour of the plan. The building was commenced by Charles in 1682, and completed by William III. in 1690, from the designs of Sir Chris-

topher Wren. The total expense amounted to about 150,000*l.*

This hospital is a brick building, ornamented with stone quoins, cornices, pediments, and columns. The north front, 804 feet in length, consists of a centre and wings, in a straight line, having no other ornament than a plain portico, over which is a turret. The south front, towards the Thames, displays more decoration: the principal parts form three sides of a square, the centre having a fine portico of the Doric order, with a colonnade on each side, and the other two noble corresponding porticoes. In the centre of the hospital are the chapel and the great dining-hall. The chapel is 110 feet in length, 30 in width, paved with black and white marble, and wainscoted with oak. The altar-piece is a picture by

Ricci, representing the Resurrection. The dining-hall, with a painting of Charles II. is of the same dimensions as the chapel. Here dinner is placed on the table for the resident pensioners, but they do not dine together, each being allowed to take his portion to his own room. The wings of the south front, each 365 feet in length and 40 wide, are chiefly occupied by the wards of the pensioners, and small apartments for the officers. The spacious and commodious apartments of the governor are at the extremity of the east wing, and those of the lieutenant-governor are in the west wing. In the centre of the quadrangle, on this side, is a bronze statue of its founder, Charles II. supposed to be the work of Gibbons.

Contiguous to the main building, on the east and west, are two other large courts, containing the residences of the various officers of

the establishment ; and the infirmary, which has lately been rebuilt, and is furnished with every convenience that can be desired.

The principal entrance to the hospital is on the north side, by two lofty iron gates, flanked by lodges, opening into an enclosure of about fourteen acres, planted with avenues of lime and horse-chesnut trees. The ground on the south side of the building is laid out in gardens, which extend to the river, where they finish with an elevated terrace. On the east side of the hospital is a cemetery of about an acre and a half belonging to the establishment. The total space occupied by the buildings and grounds belonging to the hospital is about thirty-six acres.

The pensioners consist of veterans who have served at least twenty years in the army, or of disabled soldiers. The number resident in the

hospital is about 500 ; they wear a red coat, lined with blue, and are supplied with all other garments, food, washing, and lodging, besides an allowance in money. The out-pensioners, or those not resident in the hospital, amounting to about 80,000, have pensions, varying from 7*l.* 12*s.* to 54*l.* 15*s.* per annum, paid half-yearly. These heavy expenses are defrayed by a poundage deducted from the sum voted by Parliament for the pay of the army, besides one day's pay from each officer and private ; and the deficiency, sometimes amounting to nearly a million sterling per annum, is supplied by parliament.

The affairs of this establishment are managed by commissioners, consisting of some of the great officers of state, especially in the war-department, the governor and lieutenant-governor.

ROYAL MILITARY ASYLUM.

Not far from the royal hospital, and adjoining to the King's Road, is situated the Asylum for the support and education of the children of soldiers belonging to the regular army. This handsome edifice, completed in 1806, consists of a centre and wings, forming three sides of a quadrangle. The centre of the principal front, towards the west, is occupied by a noble portico of the Doric order, consisting of four massive columns, supporting a large and well-proportioned pediment, decorated with the royal arms. The wings are connected with the principal front by a colonnade, which extends the whole length of the building, and affords a good shelter for the children in wet weather. The internal arrangements are admirably

adapted for the purposes to which the building is appropriated.

In this institution 700 boys and 300 girls are maintained and educated. The boys, who are clothed in red jackets and blue breeches, stockings, and caps, are taught the military exercise, reading, writing, and arithmetic: when of proper age, those who prefer a military life are provided for in the army, and the others are apprenticed to handicraft trades.

The girls wear red gowns, blue petticoats, white aprons, and straw bonnets. They are instructed in the same branches of knowledge as the boys, besides which they are taught all sorts of needlework, and employed in the various household occupations, in order to qualify them to become useful domestic servants.

Each of the regiments of the line contributes annually one day's pay towards the sup-

port of this excellent institution, and parliament supplies the deficiency.

THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

IN March 1824, government purchased from the executors of the late Mr. Angerstein, for the sum of 57,000*l.* nearly the whole of the magnificent pictures which he had collected, in order to form with them the foundation of a national gallery of art, the want of which had long been a subject of reproach to the country. It included some of the finest works of the most celebrated masters, to which several of first-rate excellence have since been added by purchase; and it has been greatly increased by the valuable donations

of Sir George Beaumont, the Rev. Holwell Carr, and the British Institution.

This splendid collection still occupies the house formerly inhabited by Mr. Angerstein in Pall Mall, till the completion of the gallery now erecting for it, for which parliament has voted the sum of 50,000*l.* The entire building, of which it is to compose a part, and the designs of which are furnished by Mr. Wilkins, will stand on the site of the old King's Mews, near Charing Cross, and form the north side of the intended square, to be called Trafalgar Square. The front will extend 461 feet, with a depth of only 55, on account of the contiguity of the barracks and St. Martin's workhouse in the rear. It will consist of a centre and two wings. In the ground-floor of the west wing the public records are to be deposited; and the upper floor is destined for the

reception of the pictures forming the National Gallery, which will be divided into four rooms, each fifty feet in length, with smaller rooms for cabinet pictures and for the use of the keeper. The east wing, of similar proportions and arrangement, will be appropriated to the use of the Royal Academy ; the ground-floor will be occupied by the casts from the antique, the council-room, and the keeper's apartments ; and the exhibition rooms will be on the first-floor. The centre of the edifice will contain a hall, vestibules, and staircases leading to the two wings, and be adorned externally with a grand portico formed of the columns removed from Carlton House. The exterior of the whole building will be of stone. Two archways running through it will communicate with the barracks and Castle Street.

THE ADELPHI.

AMONG the most conspicuous objects that border the north bank of the Thames, between Westminster and Waterloo Bridges, is the line of buildings called the Adelphi Terrace. With the other streets, known by the general name of the Adelphi, it occupies the site of what was anciently Durham Place, where stood the town residence of the Bishops of Durham. Henry VIII. became possessed of this palace by exchange ; and here, in 1540, was held a magnificent entertainment given by the challengers of England, who had caused proclamation to be made in France, Flanders, Scotland, and Spain, that a great and triumphant justing would be holden at Westminster for all comers : all the combatants, how-

ever, were English. After the sports of the day, the challengers rode to Durham House, where they feasted, not only the king and queen and all the court, but also the knights and burgesses of the house of commons, and the mayor and aldermen of London, with their wives. The king gave to each of the challengers and his heirs for ever, in reward of his activity, one hundred marks and a house to live in, out of the lands pertaining to the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Edward VI. allotted to his sister, the Princess Elizabeth, a residence in this palace for life ; and here, too, through the influence of the Protector Somerset, the mint was established during the same reign. It became afterwards the residence of Dudley Earl of Northumberland ; who, in May 1553, caused three marriages to be here solemnized with

great magnificence ; that of his son Lord Guildford Dudley with Lady Jane Gray ; that of Lord Herbert, heir to the Earl of Pembroke, with Catherine, her younger sister ; and that of Lord Hastings, heir to the Earl of Huntingdon, with his youngest daughter, Lady Catherine Dudley. From this place, too, the first of these ladies was conveyed by him to the Tower, to be invested with the royal dignity, and in a short time afterwards paid the penalty of his ambition on the scaffold.

Durham House was reckoned one of the royal palaces belonging to Queen Elizabeth, who gave the use of it to Sir Walter Ralegh. In the reign of Charles I. it came into the possession of the Earl of Pembroke, whose son demolished the whole, and erected tene- ments with avenues on the site, which were finally removed to make room for the Adelphi.

Part of the spot occupied by the stables was covered by the New Exchange, erected in 1608, under the auspices of James I. who, with his queen and family, honoured the opening of it with his presence. It was built on the model of the Royal Exchange, having a walk and rows of shops occupied by milliners, seamstresses, and persons following similar occupations, and became a place of fashionable resort. Pennant relates that, after the death of the Duke of Tyrconnel, lord-deputy of Ireland under James II. and a zealous tool of that bigoted prince, a female, suspected to be his duchess, supported herself for a short time, till she was known and otherwise provided for, by the little trade of this place, where, to conceal herself, she sat in a white mask and a white dress, and went by the name of the White Milliner.

The estate having become a heap of ruins, was purchased by four brothers, architects, named Adam, who, in the terrace and streets comprehended under the general denomination of the Adelphi, have left a monument of their professional skill, taste, and ingenuity. In order to raise these streets to a level with the Strand, it became necessary, on account of the sloping nature of the ground, to support them upon massy piers, vaults, and arcades, in which are warehouses for the reception of heavy goods from the river, with streets for their conveyance, running under the houses and the streets above. This great work was begun about the year 1770; and it has been remarked as a circumstance highly honourable to the skill of the architects that no accident happened in the course of the work, neither has any failure been since observed.

The view from the terrace is peculiarly striking, embracing as it does every eminent object that adorns the cities of London and Westminster, and the country on the opposite side of the river. The decorations of the houses in Adam Street are equally singular and beautiful. The general name of Adelphi (the brothers) denotes the fraternal relationship of the architects, who have contrived to preserve their family and christian names in the streets which it comprises.

SOCIETY OF ARTS.

IN John Street, Adelphi, is the building designed and erected by Messrs. Adam for the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Ma-

nufactories, and Commerce. It has been described as being beautifully simple without meanness, and grand without exaggeration. The interior is peculiarly elegant, and most conveniently arranged for the purposes of the society.

The object of this society is sufficiently evident from its title. It was instituted in 1754. The plan was suggested by Mr. Shipley, brother of the Bishop of St. Asaph, and carried into execution through the public-spirited exertions of Lords Romney and Folkstone. It consists of a president, sixteen vice-presidents, and various other officers, and an indefinite number of subscribers. In pursuance of the object of its formation, it offers premiums for useful discoveries and inventions, in which it has expended little short of 100,000*l.* As all the models of machines for which a pre-

mium is awarded become the property of the society, its collection of such models is the finest of the kind in the world. The premiums and bounties are either honorary or pecuniary ; the former, consisting of gold and silver medals, adjudged by the different committees, are presented by the president (the Duke of Sussex) in person upon the anniversary held on the last Tuesday in May ; and such is the interest excited by this exhibition, that the society's great room has been found too small to contain all the spectators seeking admission, for which reason it has been for some years held at the Opera House.

The great room, forty-seven feet in length, forty-two in breadth, and forty feet high, is embellished with a series of very fine pictures by the eccentric Barry, in which he intended to illustrate the maxim, that the attainment of

happiness, individual and public, depends on the cultivation of the human faculties. These performances constitute one of the finest moral efforts of the art, and are an honour to the British school.

The society publishes an annual volume of its Transactions, containing a report of the most striking inventions, discoveries, and improvements, submitted to its attention during the year.

WATERLOO BRIDGE.

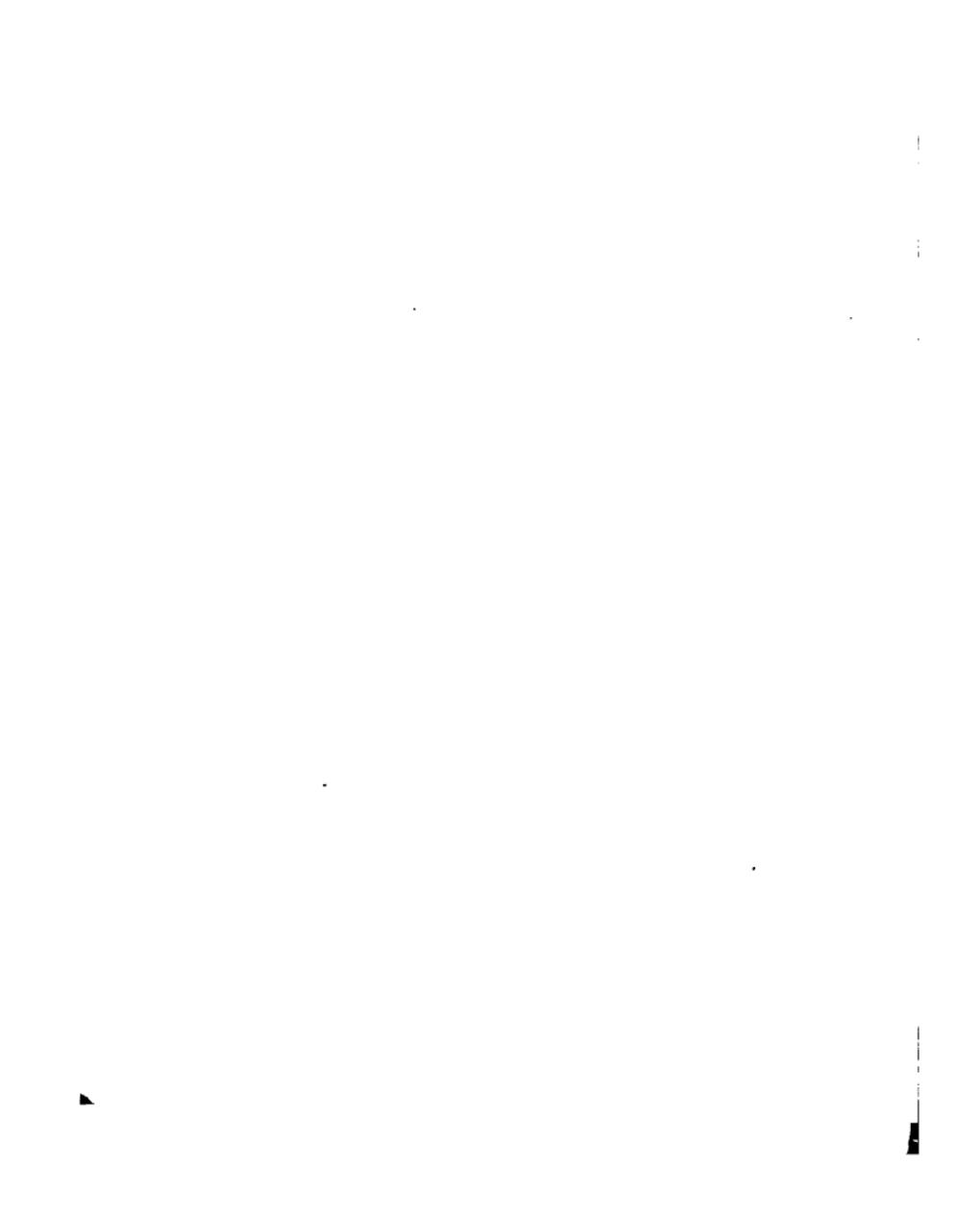
This bridge is universally admitted to be one of the noblest structures of the kind in the world. It crosses the river from the Strand to the opposite shore, about midway between

330

Holstebro, Sjælland

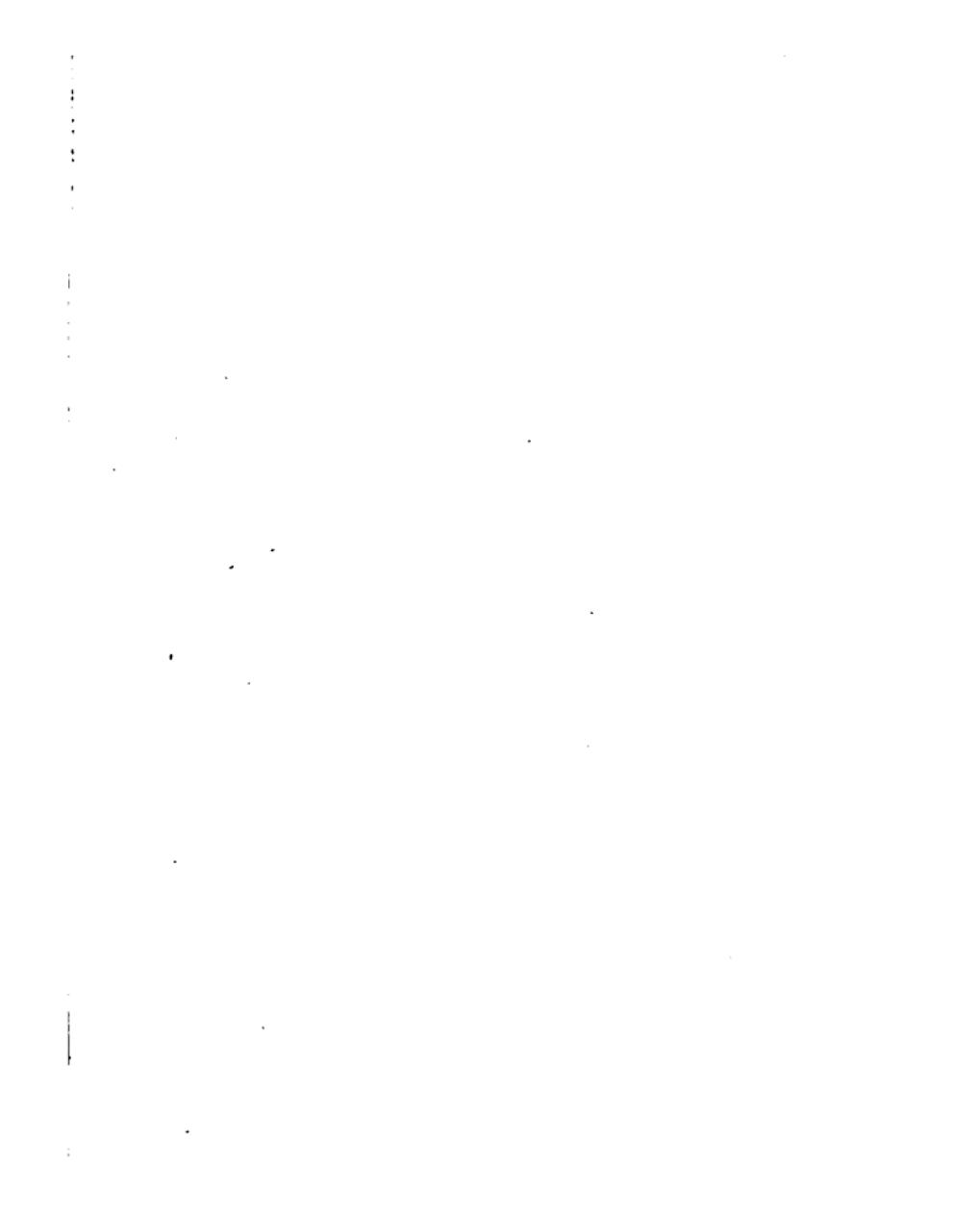
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Blackfriars and Westminster Bridges. It was commenced in 1811, and opened in 1817, with great solemnity, by his late majesty, then Prince Regent, on the anniversary of the battle of Waterloo, after which it was named. The original plan was furnished by Mr. George Dodd, but nearly the whole of the work was executed under the superintendence of the late Mr. Rennie. The exterior of the entire structure is of granite, brought from Scotland and Cornwall. This bridge has the peculiarity of being perfectly level; and, to produce this effect, it was found necessary to erect a series of arches upon both sides of the river, to support the road connected with it. These arches are of brick. The length of road so supported on the Strand side is 400 feet; and on the Surrey side 1250 feet: on the latter are forty arches, under one of which runs the street formerly known

by the name of Pedlar's Acre, but recently altered to Belvedere Road. The total length of the bridge itself, between the abutments, is 1242 feet ; the width between the balustrades is forty-two feet, with a foot pavement of seven feet on either side, and recesses provided with stone seats at certain intervals. It stands upon nine grand arches, each of 120 feet span, with piers of twenty feet thick, supporting Tuscan columns. At each end of the bridge are two small neat toll-lodges, in the Doric style : to these are attached metal turnstiles, for the admission of one person only at a time, the movement of which works machinery connected with an index, secured in a locked box in the toll-house ; by means of which contrivance the number of people that have passed may be ascertained by the person who has charge of the key at any time of the day.





The cost of this magnificent structure, raised by subscription for shares, considerably exceeded a million sterling. Though an honour to the country, and a great convenience to the public, it has not yet, we believe, yielded any return whatever to the subscribers; the produce of the tolls being absorbed by the current expenses. A new street, just opened in a line with the bridge on the north side of the Strand, will probably have the effect of causing it to be somewhat more frequented.

SOMERSET HOUSE.

On the spot occupied by this extensive range of buildings stood the magnificent palace, built about the year 1549 by the Duke of Somerset, uncle to Edward VI. and protector of England

during that king's minority, who, to make room for it, demolished St. Mary's Church, the town residences of several bishops, and many adjoining buildings. Part of the conventional church of St. John of Jerusalem, Clerkenwell, the tower and cloisters on the north side of St. Paul's cathedral, and the charnel-houses and adjoining chapel, were sacrificed to furnish materials for the new structure; and Westminster Abbey itself was saved from dilapidation only by large contributions. No recompense was made to the owners for these spoliations. The architect is supposed to have been John of Padua, who had the title of "devisor of buildings" to Henry VIII.; and who exhibited in this fabric one of the earliest specimens of the Italian style in this country.

On the attainder and execution of Somerset, this palace became the property of the crown.

It was the occasional abode of Queen Elizabeth, who, after her accession to the throne, lent it to her kinsman, Lord Hunsdon. From the time of James I. Somerset House seems to have been an appanage of the queen's consort. Anne of Denmark, queen of James I. here kept a splendid court, which, we are told, "was a continued mascarado, where she and her ladies, like so many sea-nymphs, appeared in various dresses, to the ravishment of the beholders." By this princess the house was repaired, beautified, and much enlarged; the back front and the water-gate were built from a beautiful design by Inigo Jones; and a chapel, destined for the use of the Infanta of Spain, the intended wife of Charles I. then Prince of Wales, was commenced. The remains both of the queen and of James himself lay in state in this palace before their interment in Westmin-

ster Abbey ; and here too the like honour was paid to those of Cromwell and of Monk, Duke of Albemarle.

After the marriage of Charles I. with Henrietta Maria, daughter of Henry IV. of France, this palace was settled on her for life. It was stipulated by the marriage articles, that she should not only have herself the free exercise of the catholic religion, but that all her children should be brought up in the same faith, and under her own direction, till they were thirteen years of age. This mansion became in consequence the very focus of popery ; and a convent of Capuchin friars was established in it by the queen. In the encouragement thus given to papists lay no doubt the germ of those dissensions which, in their immediate effect, brought Charles I. to the block, and in their remoter consequences drove his son James from his throne and kingdom.

In 1659 the commons resolved that Somerset House should be sold for the partial discharge of the great arrears due to the army ; and, according to Ludlow, it was actually sold for 10,000*l.*, with the exception of the chapel ; but it appears that the restoration of Charles II. prevented the execution of the agreement. It then reverted to the queen-mother, who is said on returning to this place to have exclaimed, “ If I had known the temper of the English some years past as well as I do now, I had never been obliged to leave this house.” Here she kept a splendid court for a few years, till she finally retired to France in 1665. After the decease of Charles II. his queen, who had occasionally resided at Somerset House, removed thither entirely, and, like her mother-in-law, had there a small establishment of Capuchins.

In the early part of last century this palace was occasionally used for masquerades and other court entertainments, and subsequently it became for a short time the residence of the Prince of Orange, and the hereditary Prince of Brunswick, previously to their marriages with English princesses. On the marriage of George III. Somerset House was settled on his queen, in case of her surviving him: but in 1775 it was exchanged for Buckingham House, the site of the former being required for the purpose of erecting various public offices. An eye-witness of the state of the buildings of this palace, immediately before their demolition, has furnished a highly picturesque account of them, which thus concludes:—

“ The general state of Somerset House, its mouldering walls and decayed furniture, broken casements, falling roof, and the long range of

its uninhabited and uninhabitable apartments, presented to the mind in strong though gloomy colours a correct picture of those dilapidated castles, the haunts of spectres and magicians, which have so highly distinguished the romances of recent times. The winding stairs, dark galleries, long arcades, cells, and dungeons, as they might have been termed, impervious to the solar beam, of the ancient parts of the building, were indeed most admirably adapted for scenes of a terrific and doleful character."

The present magnificent pile was commenced in 1775, from the designs and under the superintendence of Sir William Chambers. The total expense exceeded half a million sterling. The north front towards the Strand (represented in the engraving,) has in the centre a carriage-way and two footways. On the east side of this vestibule are the entrances

to the apartments of the Royal Society, and the Society of Antiquaries ; and on the west to those of the Royal Academy, where its annual exhibition of pictures takes place. The vestibule leads to a spacious quadrangle 210 feet in width and 296 in depth, the other three sides of which are of corresponding magnificence with the north front. These are occupied by the Legacy Duty, Exchequer, Privy Seal and Signet, Victualling, Navy, Navy Pay, Transport, Stamp, Audit, and Duchy of Cornwall Offices.

The river-front surpasses every other part of this vast pile in grandeur ; and, when seen from the water especially, it derives from its extent and elevation a majestic greatness of character far exceeding that of any other edifice in the metropolis. It consists of a centre and wings judiciously diversified by columns, pilasters,

and other architectural decorations ; and separated from the river by one of the finest terraces in the world, commanding a view of the Thames, and many of the most remarkable buildings of both eastern and western London. This terrace, 46 feet wide and 438 long, is supported on a noble rustic basement having 32 arches. All the fronts of this vast structure are faced with Portland-stone ; and, throughout the whole, statues, basso-relievos, and other decorative objects, have been judiciously introduced. A bronze statue of George III. with the figure of the River Thames at his feet, which directly fronts the entrance to the great quadrangle, and was executed by Bacon, is particularly admired.

The east end of this magnificent range of building, long left unfinished, has lately been completed by the erection of

KING'S COLLEGE,

FOUNDED by supporters of the Established Church, to afford those facilities for the cultivation of the higher branches of knowledge which have hitherto been confined to the Universities. This edifice, forming the east wing to Somerset House, and extending from the terrace to the Strand, with the entrance from that great thoroughfare, was erected from the designs of Sir R. Smirke, the expense being defrayed by public subscriptions and donations; and it affords all requisite accommodations for pupils and professors. The institution has received a charter from the King, and the Lord Chancellor and other high dignitaries in church and state are appointed its perpetual governors.

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— London's Attractions.

Pub'd Mar 25th by Thomas Stothard, Bartholomew Lane.

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

THE plan of this University originated with Thomas Campbell, the poet, who, in a popular periodical work of which he was editor, powerfully advocated the establishment of such an institution in the metropolis. The design thus recommended was encouraged more particularly by dissenters from the Church of England, who were excluded by their religious tenets from the degrees and emoluments conferred by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge; but the efforts of the patrons of this institution to obtain a charter and authority to grant degrees have hitherto been foiled by the opposition of the supporters of the ancient seminaries of learning. The funds requisite for erecting the building were raised

by shares of 100*l.* each : a plot of ground of rather more than seven acres was purchased for the purpose, at the upper end of Gower Street, Bedford Square ; and the work was commenced in 1827.

It is a handsome edifice, fronting Gower Street, from which it is separated by an extensive area. It is designed to consist, when complete, of a centre, with wings projecting at right angles from its extremities ; but the central part only has yet been erected. It is adorned by a splendid portico, raised to the level of the first floor by a handsome flight of steps, and consisting of fourteen fluted Corinthian columns, supporting a pediment, beneath which is the principal entrance.

This entrance opens into the vestibule, covered by a dome, surmounted by an open lantern. The decorations of the wings are

intended to correspond with those of the centre, and each of them will be crowned with a dome of smaller dimensions.

On entering the vestibule by the great door of the portico, the visiter, standing in the centre of it, surveys the whole extent of the building ; the Museum of Natural History being on one side, and the great Library on the other. They are each 120 feet long and 50 feet wide. Beyond the vestibule is the hall intended for public examinations and other meetings of ceremony, which measures 90 feet by 45, and is $25\frac{1}{2}$ in height.

The entrances to the lecture-rooms are on the ground-floor, in the middle of the two ranges of building on the south and north side of the portico ; and in the rear of these ranges are paved cloisters, each 107 feet by 23, appropriated for exercise in the intervals between

the lectures. In the north range are two lecture-rooms, 46 feet by 24, having six rows of seats raised one above another. In one of these, instruction is given in the Italian and French languages; Italian, Spanish, and English, literature; English law, and jurisprudence; and in the other, in Medicine, Surgery, and the branches of science connected with them. In this part are also the Chemical Laboratory and the Museum of *Materia Medica*, which contains a collection illustrative of that department, more complete, perhaps, than has hitherto been brought together; a *hortus siccus*; drawings on a large scale of all medicinal plants; specimens of the various articles of the *materia medica*, and specimens of them when prepared for use as medicines.

Contiguous to the latter is the theatre for lectures on *Materia Medica* and Chemistry, a

semicircular room, 65 feet by 50, containing ten rows of concentric seats, raised one above another, for the students, and all requisite accommodations for the lecturer's experiments. Above this is a theatre of similar dimensions and arrangement, for lectures on Midwifery, Anatomy, and Operative Surgery. Here, too, are the Museums of Anatomy and of Natural History ; the latter 120 feet by 50, with a gallery round it.

The south range contains on the ground-floor two lecture-rooms, for the French, German, Italian, Spanish, and Hebrew languages, and Political Economy : two theatres of the same dimensions, and fitted up in the same manner as those in the north range ; the one for lectures in Botany, and the other for Natural Philosophy and Astronomy : and the small library, capable of containing 12,000

volumes. Under the hall are two lecture-rooms, each 44 feet by 38 : the one for lectures on the Roman language and literature, and mathematics ; and the other for the English language, and the Greek language and literature.

Beneath these, in the basement, are two rooms, fitted up with benches and tables, as common rooms for the students, where they may wait, and have an opportunity of reading and writing, in the intervals between the lectures. Here also, beneath the south cloister, are a series of refreshment rooms for their accommodation, where they are supplied with all such articles as are deemed suitable, at prices sanctioned by the council.

Besides the principal divisions of this fine building here enumerated, it contains private rooms for the professors, and apartments for

the reception of apparatus and objects used for experiments, or in illustration of their respective sciences.

A handsome building, not yet completed, has been erected on the west side of Gower Street, opposite to the University, for the purpose of an hospital, and called the North London Hospital; where the students in medicine and surgery have opportunities of attending the practice of those sciences, and combining it with the theoretical knowledge derived from the lectures.

Attached to the classical department, there is a grammar-school in Tavistock Square, where students are prepared for this Institution.

According to the report made to the last annual general meeting of the proprietors, the number of students in the faculty of the

arts and law is 137 ; in medicine, 371 ; in the junior school, 303. The total amount of receipts during the year was 997*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.*

THE THEATRES.

Most of the theatres of London are situated in the Westminster division of the metropolis. As public buildings, those of Drury Lane and Covent Garden, the Italian and English Opera Houses, and the Haymarket Theatre, are alone worthy of notice.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

THE first theatre erected on the spot occupied by this edifice was opened in 1672. About ten years afterwards, it was entirely destroyed by fire, together with between fifty and sixty adjoining houses. Sir Christopher Wren was then employed to design and superintend the erection of a new theatre ; and it was here that Garrick acquired unrivalled distinction as a performer. This house was taken down and rebuilt on an enlarged and more magnificent scale by Holland, the architect ; it was finished in 1794, and burned in 1809. On its ruins rose the present theatre, externally a substantial edifice, and internally superb and judiciously contrived. The architect was Mr. Benjamin Wyatt. The front in

Brydges Street is decorated with pilasters of the Doric order. In the centre is the principal entrance, above which is a full-length statue of Shakspeare ; it leads through a spacious hall into a rotunda of great beauty : on each side of this rotunda are passages to the great staircases, which are remarkably grand and spacious. The edifice was completed for 112,000*l.* ; but the total cost, including that of scenery, wardrobe, and furniture, amounted to about 150,000*l.* The interior was entirely new modelled in 1822, and is now capable of accommodating upwards of 3000 persons.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

THE front of this edifice is in Bow Street. The first theatre erected on this spot was opened in 1733 ; and in 1787 it was succeeded by a new building, from designs by Holland, which was consumed by fire in September 1808. Such was the dispatch used in the erection of the present house, that it was finished in about ten months, and opened in the September of the following year. The architect was Sir Robert Smirke, who has displayed in this edifice much grandeur of conception, and produced a more magnificent theatre than the nation had hitherto possessed.

The order of the architecture is the Grecian Doric. The portico consists of four very large

fluted columns supporting a pediment. Over the windows on each side of the portico are emblematical representations of the ancient and modern drama, in basso-relievo; and near the extremities of this front are niches, containing statues of Comedy and Tragedy by Flaxman.

The arrangements of the interior are peculiarly elegant; and the shape of the house before the curtain, being that of a horseshoe, wide at the heel, is considered particularly favourable not only to the transmission of sound, but also to the complete view of the scenery in all situations. It is calculated to accommodate 2,800 persons.

KING'S THEATRE.

THIS theatre, also called the Italian Opera House, is exclusively devoted to music and dancing ; and the operas to which these performances are adapted must be in the Italian language. It is situated at the southern extremity of the Haymarket. The first theatre on this spot owed its existence to Sir John Vanbrugh, who procured subscriptions for defraying the expense of its erection ; but the speculation proved unprofitable. In 1720 the plan was revived ; a fund of 50,000*l.*, to which King George I. contributed 1000*l.*, was raised by subscription for the regular support of the undertaking ; and the concern was placed under the superintendence of a governor and directors, called the Academy of

Music. Vocal performers and musical composers of the first eminence were engaged; and the opera became a favourite place of resort of the nobility and people of fashion. In 1789 the whole of the theatre, together with several adjoining houses, was destroyed by fire. It was soon rebuilt, and no material change has since been made in the interior. The exterior, which long remained unfinished, was completed in 1820, from the designs of Messrs. Nash and Repton. It is encompassed on three sides by a colonnade of the Roman Doric order, and on the fourth by a covered arcade. The centre of the front in the Hay-market is decorated with a long basso-relievo, in artificial stone, illustrative of the origin and progress of music and dancing.

The arrangements of the interior are on a magnificent scale. The pit is calculated

to accommodate 800 persons; the gallery a like number; and the five tiers of boxes, which are either private property, or let for the season at a high rate, hold nearly 900.

In this building there is also a great room in which the Concerts of Ancient Music, commonly called the King's Concerts, are held. It is 95 feet long, 46 broad, and 35 high, and is fitted up in the most elegant style.

HAYMARKET THEATRE.

THIS theatre, which is open during the summer months when the great houses are closed, stands on the east side of the Haymarket. Though small, it is a handsome building, erected from the designs of Nash,

in 1820 and 1821. A portico of six Corinthian columns adorns the front; and above the pediment are nine circular windows, connected by sculptured work. The interior differs from every other theatre in London in the part appropriated to the audience, which forms a straight line on each side and is but slightly curved in the centre. It is fitted up with taste and elegance.

ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

IN 1765, Payne, the architect, who had purchased part of the ground on the north side of the Strand, belonging to Exeter House, erected upon it a building, called the Lyceum, for an exhibition-room. The back part was

afterwards converted into a theatre, where for some time Dr. Arnold and Charles Dibdin successively displayed their musical talents. For many years it was occupied by exhibitions of every possible kind, till, in 1808, it was purchased by S. J. Arnold, Esq. who, in 1816, erected on its site an elegant house for the performance of English operas. This building was destroyed by fire in 1830 ; and its site, being required for the formation of a new street in continuation of the line of Waterloo Bridge, was exchanged by Mr. Arnold for a spot on the west side of that street ; where he has erected a handsome new theatre from designs by Beazley. An elegant portico, supported by Corinthian columns, forms the principal entrance.

COVENT GARDEN MARKET.

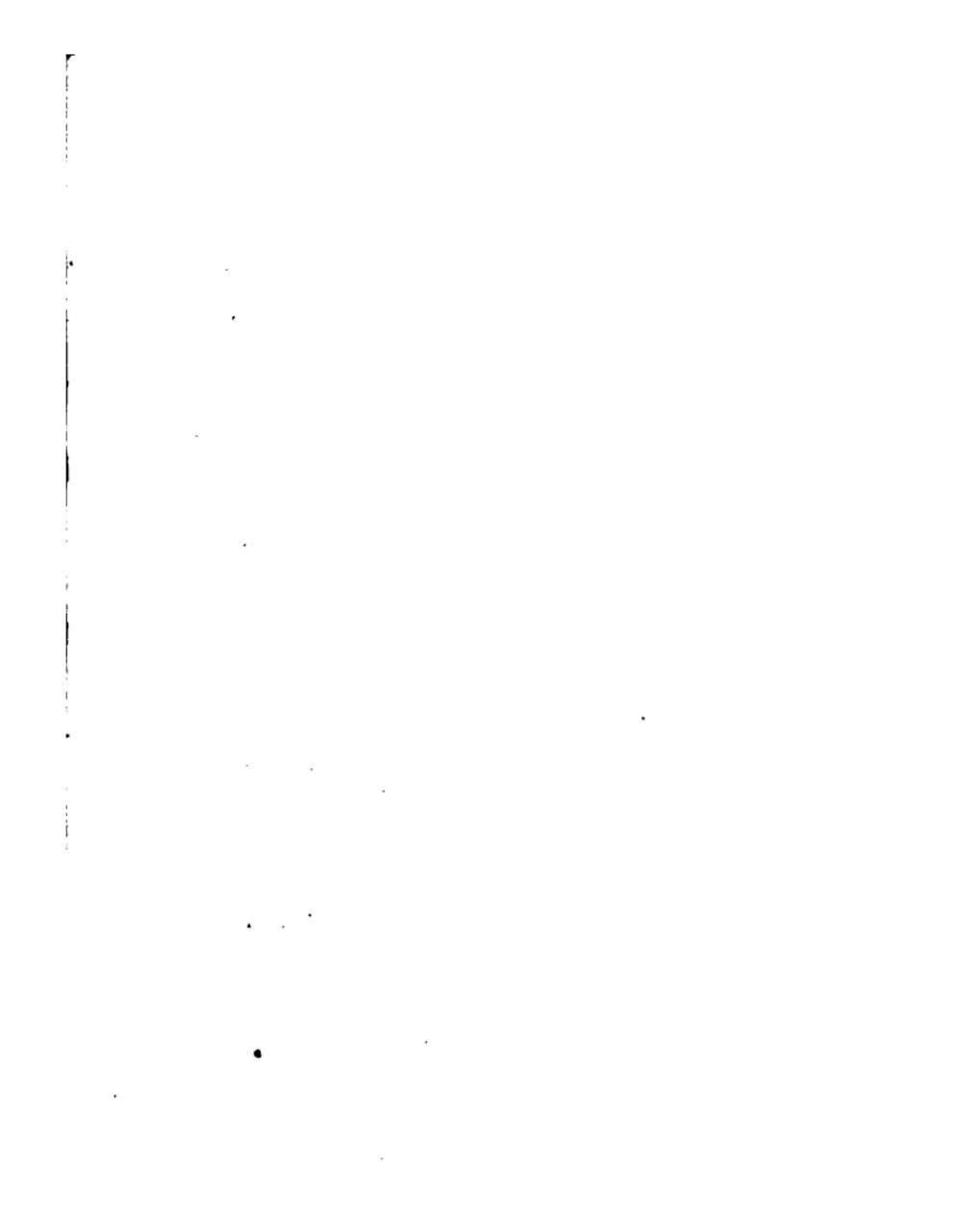
THE square now appropriated to the purposes of a market for vegetables, fruit, and flowers, was anciently a garden belonging to the abbot and monks of Westminster, thence called Convent, since corrupted into Covent Garden. After the dissolution of religious houses, this and the adjacent lands were granted first to the Protector Somerset, and after his attainder to the Earl of Bedford, in whose descendants the property is still vested. The grant included a field called the Seven Acres, upon which was afterwards built a street named from its length Long Acre.

This market contains about three acres of ground. It is bounded on the north and part of the east side by a fine piazza, designed by

Inigo Jones ; and the west side is occupied by the Church of St. Paul, which was erected in 1640, as a chapel of ease to the parish of St. Martin in the Fields, at the expense of the Earl of Bedford. It is related that this nobleman, in giving his directions for the structure to the eminent architect just mentioned, observed that a plain-looking building, in fact, a barn, would answer the purpose. Jones therefore made it his study to devise such a plan as should combine the highest degree of simplicity with that dignity which a sacred edifice ought to possess. In September 1795, a fire, occasioned by the neglect of plumbers engaged in repairs of the building, broke out in the west end of this church, and consumed the whole of the interior ; but, as the walls sustained little damage, this relic of one of our greatest architects was restored without any

material deviation from the original plan. The front exhibits a plain but noble portico of the Tuscan order, before which it has been for many years the custom to erect the hustings for the election of parliamentary representatives for Westminster.

The area occupied by the market was formerly covered by mean stalls and sheds. These were a few years since removed, and commodious, handsome, and solid stone buildings erected in their stead, at the expense of the Duke of Bedford, from the designs of Mr. Fowler. This and the new market of Hungerford, not far distant from it, serve to show how places the most unsightly may, by professional skill and the judicious expenditure of capital, be converted into objects not less pleasing in appearance than useful in their appropriation.



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BRITISH MUSEUM.

THE building occupied by this grand national collection in Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury, was erected from the designs of Puget, a French architect, for the first Duke of Montague, after whom it was called Montague House. It was purchased by act of parliament for the purpose to which it is now applied, in consequence of the will of Sir Hans Sloane, who left to the nation his Museum, which he declared had cost him upwards of 50,000*l.* on condition that 20,000*l.* should be paid to his executors, and that a house sufficiently spacious to contain it should be provided. The offer was readily accepted; the requisite arrangements were made, and some other valuable collections added to those

of Sir Hans Sloane, at an expense of 85,000*l.*, which sum was raised by lottery.

The accessions received by this institution since its first establishment, either by way of donation or purchase, have been numerous and important. They comprise the Cottonian Library, given by Sir Robert Cotton ; Major Edwards's Library of Printed Books ; the Harleian Collection of Manuscripts ; Sir William Hamilton's Greek Vases ; the Townley Collection of Antique Marbles ; the Manuscripts of the late Marquess of Lansdowne ; the Elgin Marbles from Athens ; Dr. Burney's Classical Library ; the Library of Manuscripts and Printed Books collected by our Kings from the time of Richard II. given by George II. ; a numerous Collection of Pamphlets, published between 1640 and 1660 ; besides two of the finest Mummies in Europe ; the

Antiquities brought from Egypt after the expulsion of the French; and many other things contributed by George III.; after whose decease a valuable and extensive library, formed under his direction, was presented to the Museum by his successor.

There have also been added to the Museum at different times, Hargrave's valuable Collection of Ancient Law Books and Manuscripts; Hatchett's and the Greville Collection of Minerals; Halhed's Oriental Manuscripts; and Tysen's Collection of Saxon Coins.

To the private donations may be added the Library left by Dr. Birch, together with the annual sum of 522*l.* towards the funds for ever; a select Library of Classics by Thomas Tyrwhitt, Esq.; a Collection of Printed Books and Manuscripts by Sir William Musgrave; a magnificent Collection of Printed Books,

Coins, Medals, Minerals, Gems, &c. bequeathed by the Rev. Mr. Cracherode ; and Mr. R. P. Knight's Collection of Coins, Gems, and Bronzes, of the estimated value of 60,000*l.* The Library and Botanical Collections of the late Sir Joseph Banks, to whom the Museum was indebted for many curiosities from the South Sea Islands, have also been recently added to the stores of this establishment ; which further boasts of many valuable presents from foreign sovereigns, public bodies, and literary societies.

The stock of Printed Books belonging to the Museum is receiving constant accessions by purchase and bequests ; and it is one of the eleven institutions which, by an act of parliament passed in 1815, can claim a copy of every new work on the best paper on which it is printed.

The entrance to this edifice, above which is a cupola, opens into a spacious quadrangle, having an Ionic colonnade on the south side, apartments occupied by officers of the establishment on the east and west, and on the north the main building, 216 feet in length and 57 in height. The ground-floor consists of sixteen rooms, containing the Library of Printed Books, to which strangers are not admitted. The staircase and ceilings are decorated by paintings executed by French artists. Among other curiosities on the landing-places of the stairs are stuffed skins of the White Bear and Musk-Ox brought from the North Seas, and a male and female Cameleopard. Here in fourteen rooms are preserved a portion of the immense collection of curiosities in nature and art already enumerated.

On the west side of the old building is situated the Gallery of Antiquities, which consists of twelve rooms, exclusively of two new ones occupied by the sculptures belonging to the Phigalian and Elgin collections. On the opposite side of the garden area a new building has also been erected and fitted up from designs by Sir R. Smirke, to receive the Library of George III. presented by the late king, comprising a splendid collection of books in every class of literature, mostly in elegant bindings, and amounting to about 67,000 volumes. This is the largest apartment in this country, being 300 feet in length, 30 wide, and 30 in height. Above it, another apartment of the like dimensions contains the Fossils and Minerals belonging to the Museum; and at the southern extremity a hand-

some room is appropriated to a valuable Collection of Prints and Drawings.

The Reading Rooms on the ground-floor, to which access is easily obtained by respectable persons, who wish to consult or make extracts from the printed books or manuscripts deposited here, are open from ten till four o'clock every day, excepting Sundays and certain holidays. One of the librarians and several servants are in constant attendance, and the wants of readers of every class are supplied with the utmost promptitude. All the public parts of the Museum may be inspected between the hours of ten and four, on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, except in Christmas, Easter, and Whitsun weeks, and in the months of August and September.

The government of the British Museum is

vested in forty-seven trustees; twenty acting as such by virtue of their respective offices in the state; fifteen chosen by them; and six representing the Sloane, Cotton, and Oxford families. For the support of the institution a considerable sum is annually voted by parliament.

REGENT'S PARK.

NORTHWARD of the western portion of the metropolis is situated the Regent's Park, a tract of about 360 acres, which, at the commencement of the present century, was occupied as a farm. Under the management of the Commissioners of the royal Woods and Forests, it has been enclosed and laid out in lawn, plantations, and gardens, intersected

by roads and water, for the purpose of being let to build on ; by which means it is expected to produce in a few years a considerable revenue to government. Around it have been erected several terraces, named after the titles of various branches of the royal family, and a number of detached villas.

On the east side is the new Hospital of St. Katharine, consisting of a chapel in the centre, with a group of dwellings on each side, and a detached mansion for the master, Sir Herbert Taylor ; erected in the style of Henry the Eighth's time, from the designs of Mr. A. Poynter. The original hospital was situated in East Smithfield, eastward of the Tower ; but its site being required for the formation of the St. Katharine's Docks, a new habitation was provided for its inmates in this far more agreeable situation.

This park contains also those two novel exhibitions, the Colosseum and the Diorama, and the Zoological Gardens.

COLOSSEUM.

THIS immense building nearly resembles in design, and is almost as large as, the Pantheon at Rome, being 130 feet in diameter, and 110 in height. In form it is a polygon, having a massive portico, composed of six large fluted columns of the Grecian-Doric order, and it is surmounted by a glazed cupola. An immense picture of London surrounds the inner surface of the building, and is viewed by visitors from galleries placed at different heights between the floor and the summit.

Not the least curious circumstance connected with this exhibition, was the manner in which the artist was enabled to furnish this representation. In 1821, when it was found necessary to take down the old ball and cross of St. Paul's Cathedral, and to supply their place with a new one; while the workmen were preparing the place for the reception of the latter, Mr. Hornor obtained permission to erect a scaffold considerably higher than the top of the church, where, by the aid of a camera obscura, he took the panoramic views of London and its environs, from which these paintings have been executed. Little would the visiter of the Colosseum suspect the dangers and hardships at the expense of which his gratification was purchased.

While engaged on this work, the artist was accustomed to repair to the cathedral at three

in the morning. The stillness which then pervaded the streets was surpassed only by the more solemn and sepulchral stillness of the building itself. But not less impressive was the development at that early hour of the immense scene from its lofty summit, whence was frequently beheld "the forest of London" without any indication of animated existence. It was interesting to mark the gradual symptoms of returning life, until the rising sun vivified the whole into activity, bustle, and business. On one occasion he passed the night in the observatory, for the purpose of meeting the first glimpse of day; but the cold was so intense as to preclude any wish to repeat the experiment.

Though all possible precautions were taken for the prevention of accidents to be apprehended in such an exposed situation, the wea-

ther was frequently so boisterous during the stormy summer of 1821, as to frustrate every contrivance for security. Scarcely a day passed without derangement of some part of the scaffolding or the machinery connected with it; and so strong became the sense of danger arising from these repeated casualties, that it became difficult to obtain the aid of efficient workmen. During the high winds, it was impossible for a person to stand on the scaffolding without clinging for support against the frame-work. At such times the creaking and whistling of the timbers resembled those of a ship labouring in a storm, and the situation of the artist was not unlike that of a mariner at the mast-head. During a squall more than usually severe, a great part of the circular frame-work of heavy planks erected above the gallery, for the prevention of acci-

dents, was carried over the house-tops to a considerable distance. At the same moment a similar fate had nearly befallen the observatory, which was torn from its fastenings, and turned partly over the edge of the platform, its contents being thrown into the utmost confusion. The fury of the wind rendered the door impassable ; but, after a short interval of suspense, an outlet was obtained on the opposite side ; and it became necessary to provide against similar misfortunes by securing the observatory to a cross-beam and constructing a rope-fence.

If this truly original building, and the picture within it excite the surprise of the spectator, he will be equally struck by the various objects combined in the small area without. Here he finds conservatories of different sizes, shapes, and appropriations, containing the

choicest plants and flowers, with fountains and foreign birds ; also caves, subterraneous passages, a cascade amidst wild Alpine scenery, and a cottage in the Swiss style. One portion of this area has recently been devoted to a representation of scenery in South Africa, and thence called the African Glen. It is diversified with distant views of Cape Town and other places, and with the principal animals themselves indigenous to the country, both quadrupeds and birds, in the attitudes and positions natural to them in various circumstances. A saloon, fitted up with great elegance, and adorned with numerous works of art, adds to the attractions of this unrivalled place, the proprietors of which will no doubt find the reduction which they have just made in the price of admission amply compensated by the increased number of visitors.

DIORAMA.

THIS structure was opened in 1823 for the exhibition of pictures of buildings and landscape scenery, so arranged and illuminated as to produce changes of light and shade, and to represent the appearances of nature with astonishing accuracy. It consists of a vestibule, with doors opening into the boxes and saloon, the floor of which is made to turn on a pivot, so as to bring the spectators in succession opposite to openings resembling the proscenium of a theatre; behind which are the picture-rooms, where are two large pictures, lighted by windows behind, and by skylights in the roof. The pictures hitherto exhibited have been painted by French artists, the original inventors of this species of exhibition.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.

Few places in the neighbourhood of the metropolis are more attractive than the Gardens belonging to the Zoological Society, instituted seven or eight years ago. Having obtained a grant of an extensive piece of ground at the north-east end of the park, it has there formed plantations and erected suitable abodes for the most interesting species of animals from every country and climate, both birds and quadrupeds. The natives of hotter regions are here protected from the cold of our winter, and in summer allowed as much range as the general design of these gardens and their safe custody will permit. The society's collection being in a progressive state of increase, an addition of ten acres on

the south side of the park has just been annexed to the gardens. They have become, and most deservedly, a favourite place of resort, not only for the members of the society and their friends, but also for strangers, who are admitted by members' tickets on paying one shilling each person.

From the last report of the Zoological Society, it appears that the income derived in 1834 from the admission of visitors to the gardens, amounted to 7545*l.* 1*s.* from 150,911 persons; and the total from the Museum in Bruton Street, to 77*l.* 3*s.* from 1543 persons. The entire receipts for the year were 18,458*l.* 9*s.* 4*d.* and the expenditure 12,080*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* The annual cost of the rhinoceros alone is 150*l.*, this enormous animal subsisting chiefly on rice. From the same report we learn that some experiments have recently been made with

the Wapiti deer belonging to this establishment, which prove them to exceed in speed the fleetest horses in draught; twelve or fourteen miles an hour being accomplished and kept up without apparent inconvenience to the animals, whose superior tractability is an additional recommendation.

We shall be excused for adopting the eloquent language in which Mr. Barrow, in a preliminary note to his "Characteristic Sketches of Animals," remarks on the services rendered to the public by the formation of the collection of the Zoological Society. "Such a collection," he says, "so maintained and so displayed, advances slowly, but certainly, the best interests of morals and philosophy. The curiosity which it excites, the gratification it affords, operate, though with differing degrees of intensity, on the most

uncultivated and the best informed of those who visit it, to beget inquiry and awaken reflection ; and in what can inquiry and reflection thus originated determine but in producing and extending the most sublime impressions of the beneficence, the power, and the providence of the great Author of Creation ?

“ What object can more sensibly arouse such perceptions than the assemblage in one domain of the most wild or beautiful, or fierce or powerful, of the quadrupeds of either hemisphere ? Observe how the infant colony of which we are especially speaking has already been peopled. The majestic Rusa, captured in the sultry forests of Bengal, and the elegant Gazelle, which has once bounded over the parched deserts of Barbary, have become intimate and made their couch with the White Reindeer brought from the icy wastes of Lap-

land. The misshapen but harmless Kangaroo of New Holland is a fellow-lodger with the ferocious Gnu of Southern Africa; and the patient Llama, who has left the snowy sides and precipitous defiles of the Andes, contemplates without terror its formidable neighbours, the Wolf of the Pyrenees and the Bear of the stupendous mountains of Tibet. In the immediate vicinity of the Sacred Bull, whose consecrated life has heretofore been passed in luxurious freedom or indolent enjoyment on the banks of the Ganges or the Jumna, feeds the gaunt and shaggy Bison, which crops with sullen tranquillity an herbage more nutritious but less grateful to him than he loved to cull among the stony pastures of the Alleghany range, or of the howling solitudes surrounding Hudson's Bay. Though thousands of leagues have interposed between

the arid sands from which they have been imported into this peaceful and common home, the Camel of the Thebais, as he ruminates in his grassy parterre, surveys with composed surprise the wild Dog of the Tierra del Fuego, and the sharp-eyed Dingo of Australia. Around, the ghastly Sloth Bear, disinterred from his burrows in the gloomiest woods of Mysore or Canara, and his more lively congener of Russia, the Armadillo of Brazil, and the Pine Marten of Norway, display a vivacity of action and a cheerfulness of gesture, which captivity seems powerless to repress. The Elephant of Ceylon and the noble Wapiti of the Canadas repose beneath the same roof; and, from his bath or his pavilion, the Arctic Bear contemplates, not his native rocks and solitudes, the crashing of icebergs, and the polar seas, alternately lashed into terrific fury

or hemmed in by accumulating precipices of ice ; but Monkeys of almost every size, form, and family, which gambol in the woods of Numidia and Gundwana, in the loftiest trees of Sumatra, on the mountains of Java, by the rivers of Paraguay and Hindustan, of South America and South Asia, on the jungly banks of the Godavery, and the woody shores of the Pamoni, the Oronoko, and the Bramahputra ; in short, in every sunny clime and region where the rigours of his own winter are not only unknown but inconceivable.”

COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.

BEFORE the reign of Henry VIII. there was little or no restraint on the practice of physic

and surgery. The most illiterate and ignorant pretended to professional knowledge, and exercised the art of killing with impunity, till, in 1511, an act of parliament was passed to confine, within the city of London, or seven miles of it, the practice of either faculty to such as should have been examined, approved of, and admitted by the Bishop of London, or the Dean of St. Paul's, assisted by four doctors of physic, and other persons expert in surgery. The preamble to this act states that, "the science and cunning of physic and surgery" was exercised "by a great multitude of ignorant persons, of whom the greater part have no manner of insight in the same nor in any other kind of learning: some also can read no letters on the book; so far forth, that common artificers, as smiths, weavers, and women, boldly and accustomably took

upon them great cures and things of great difficulty, in which they partly used sorceries and witchcraft, and partly applied such remedies to the diseased as are very noisome, and nothing meet therefore, to the high displeasure of God and destruction of many of the king's liege people."

To perpetuate the beneficial effects of this act, the king, in 1518, at the instigation of Cardinal Wolsey and his physicians, instituted the College of Physicians by his letters patent, granted to certain persons therein named, who were incorporated into a body, with power to form "a perpetual commonalty or fellowship of the faculty of physick." The privileges conferred by this charter were a few years afterwards confirmed and extended by parliament; and the president and three other members of the College were em-

powered to examine all physicians in England, excepting graduates of the two universities. Additional charters have been granted by different sovereigns : and the society now consists of a president, electors, honorary fellows, candidates, and licentiates.

The first edifice in which the college meetings were held was given to the society by Dr. Linacre, physician to Henry VII. and VIII. and stood in Knight Rider Street. In the following century the members removed to Amen Corner, Paternoster Row, where the learned Dr. Harvey erected a Museum and a Convocation Room, which he gave to the College, together with his paternal estate, of the then yearly value of 56*l.* partly to defray the expenses of an annual feast, and partly to establish an annual Latin oration. After the destruction of the College buildings by the

great fire in 1666, the society purchased an extensive plot of ground in Warwick Lane, on which a new edifice was erected from the designs and under the superintendence of Sir Christopher Wren. Here the meetings of the society were held till its removal in 1825 to Pall Mall East, where a more elegant and commodious building was erected for its use from the designs of Sir R. Smirke.

No person can be chosen a fellow of this College without having taken the degree of bachelor or doctor of medicine at Oxford or Cambridge; nor can any one be admitted a licentiate without studying two years at an English university, or obtaining a diploma from Edinburgh, Glasgow, or Dublin, or submitting to an examination as to his professional knowledge before the censors of the College.

COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.

THE Surgeons were incorporated by Henry VIII. in conjunction with the Barbers, as one of the city companies; but in 1800 they obtained a royal charter constituting them a separate corporation. Their College is a handsome and spacious building on the south side of Lincoln's Inn Fields, adorned with a portico of the Ionic order, supporting an entablature. A considerable part of this edifice is occupied by the Museum, a large oblong room, in which are arranged the collections of the celebrated anatomist John Hunter, which were purchased by government, and committed to the care of the College of Surgeons. This collection of comparative anatomy, one of the most complete in the world, cannot be con-

templated without astonishment and admiration of the talents, assiduity, and labour, which must have concurred in its formation. Among the numberless curious objects contained in this Museum, is the wife of the eccentric Martin Van Butchell, who embalmed her body and kept it in his house till his own death. It has been further enriched by large contributions from Sir Joseph Banks, Sir William Blizard, and Sir Everard Home. The dissection of murderers executed in London was formerly under the direction of the master and governors of this College, and took place in the Anatomical Theatre here; but this practice has been abolished by Parliament.

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.

THIS truly beneficent institution owed its foundation to the philanthropic exertions of Captain Coram, the master of a merchant-vessel in the American trade, who, after the labour of seventeen years, finally succeeded in the establishment of a Foundling Hospital, for the maintenance and education of exposed and deserted young children, and obtained in 1739 a royal charter, authorizing the governors of this charity to purchase, among other things, real estates, not exceeding in value 4000*l.* per annum. In the early years of this institution, it was conducted on so extensive a plan, that its income was found inadequate to defray the expenses, and large sums were annually voted for it by parliament; till 1771,

when these grants ceased, and the governors were consequently obliged to adopt a more contracted scale. At present, the income derived from the landed and funded property of the Hospital, and from the collections at the chapel, is sufficient to maintain about four hundred children of both sexes ; nearly one-half of whom, being the youngest, are reared in cottages to the distance of twenty or thirty miles round London, till they are five years of age, when they are admitted into the Hospital.

Infants are not received here indiscriminately as in foreign establishments of the same kind. In every individual case application is necessary, and this is subject to the consideration of the committee of management. The children of sailors and soldiers who have fallen in the service are also admitted under particular circumstances. The benefits of the

charity are not confined to the rearing and educating of helpless orphans, but extend at the discretion of the committee to the supplying them on their discharge from the establishment with clothes and money, not exceeding the value of ten pounds, and to the binding them apprentices, or placing them in service.

The Hospital, situated in Great Guildford Street, is a spacious and convenient edifice, consisting of two wings, constructed in a plain regular manner of brick, and united by the chapel, which forms the centre. The east wing is occupied by the girls, and the west by the boys. At the south extremity of the former is the treasurer's house, and the extremity of the opposite wing is allotted to inferior officers. A good garden and a commodious play-ground for the children are attached to the building.

In the chapel, to which the public are admitted, divine service is performed twice every Sunday. The pews are in general let at a high rent ; besides which a collection is always made at the doors ; and, from the excellence of the music, the popularity of the preachers, and the influence of fashion, an income of about 3000*l.* is annually derived from this source. The altar-piece is by the late Benjamin West ; and in the windows are the armorial bearings, in stained glass, of the principal benefactors to the charity. Among these may be reckoned Handel, who gave to it a fine organ, and for several years performed here his oratorio of the Messiah for the benefit of the institution.

Hogarth was also an early benefactor and an active promoter of the Foundling Hospital. He presented it with three fine pictures, one

of which was his admirable March to Finchley, and another a portrait of the founder, Captain Coram. The collection has since been enriched by other presents from celebrated artists, among which are the principal hospitals in and near London, by Wilson, Hatley, Wale, and Gainsborough. Most of these adorn the Court Room, where are also four pictures from sacred history, by Hogarth, Hayman, Highmore, and Wills. Two of them represent subjects connected with the exposure of the infant Moses; a third the story of Hagar and Ishmael; and the fourth that endearing passage in the life of the Saviour, when he said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

This institution is under the patronage of the king, and governed by a president, vice-presidents, treasurer, and subordinate officers.

To the establishment belong also a chaplain, a morning preacher, two evening preachers, a surgeon, an apothecary, a schoolmaster, and a matron.

PENITENTIARY, MILLBANK.

THIS prison, situated near the bank of the Thames, at the western extremity of Westminster, is designed for a place of confinement, employment, and reformation, of offenders convicted of crimes of secondary magnitude, formerly punished by transportation for a number of years. It was constructed in a great measure according to the plan recommended by the late Jeremy Bentham. The external wall, which forms a polygon, encloses eighteen

acres of ground ; and the culprits are confined in circular buildings, connected by what may be termed curtains, and having windows so contrived that the overseer, from an apartment in the centre, is enabled to overlook every room. The prison contains also a large chapel, an infirmary, and other conveniences. The total expense of the building amounted to between four and five hundred thousand pounds ; and it is designed to accommodate four hundred convicts of either sex. No persons are allowed access either to the courtyards or the apartments, unless authorised by the committee, the members of which are nominated by the privy-council. The committee forms a body corporate, in which is vested the appointment of the governor, chaplain, secretary, examiner of accounts, surgeon, apothecary, master-manufacturer, steward, ma-

tron, and the other officers of the establishment. The punishment and reformation of the inmates are sought through the operation of solitude, labour, classification, and religious instruction ; and good conduct is allowed to constitute a recommendation for abridging the term of their imprisonment.

VAUXHALL BRIDGE.

WESTWARD of the Penitentiary is Vauxhall Bridge, which forms an elegant ornament to the approach to the metropolis leading from South Lambeth and Vauxhall. It consists of nine arches of equal span, in squares of cast iron, resting on piers of rusticated stone. The total length is 860 feet; the span of the

arches is 78 feet, the height 29 feet, and the road-way is 36 feet wide. This structure, the architect of which was Mr. J. Walker, cost about 150,000*l.*

LAMBETH PALACE.

HAVING extended our range westward beyond the strict limits of Westminster, we shall now deviate beyond its southern bounds, for the purpose of including one or two of the remarkable metropolitan edifices on the south bank of the river opposite to that city. Here, facing Millbank, stands the venerable residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, which has belonged to his predecessors in that see ever since the twelfth century; when, in 1189, the

Bishop of Rochester exchanged his court and demesnes at Lambeth, with the then archbishop, for other lands in the Isle of Grain. By a subsequent agreement in 1197, between Archbishop Hubert Walter and the same Bishop of Rochester, the former obtained a grant of the entire manor of Lambeth, in exchange for that of Darent, in Kent, and other premises. From that period Lambeth became the fixed dwelling-place of the Archbishops of Canterbury.

Lambeth Palace, formerly called Lambeth House, or the manor of Lambeth, is a very extensive and irregular pile, exhibiting the architecture of different periods. It is believed to have been rebuilt by Archbishop Boniface ; who, in 1262, obtained from Pope Urban IV. a bull empowering him to expend a fourth part of the offerings made at Becket's

tomb to pious uses ; and also to rebuild his old houses at Lambeth, or make new ones, as he should think fit. No part of this edifice, however, is supposed to be still standing, unless it be the chapel and its crypt, which are evidently of his age, if not still more ancient.

By the succeeding prelates this edifice was gradually enlarged and improved. In the fifteenth century Archbishop Chicheley expended considerable sums in additional buildings, particularly a great hall, and various offices ; and the present magnificent gateway was erected by Cardinal and Archbishop Morton, about the year 1490. The spacious apartment called the steward's parlour is attributed to Archbishop Cranmer ; and the long gallery, with the adjoining range of brick building, was added by Cardinal Pole, during his short primacy in Queen Mary's reign.

The library was founded by Archbishop Bancroft in 1610.

The Gate-house is perhaps the most remarkable fabric of the kind now remaining ; not, however, for any particular elegance, but for its great size and height. It consists of two massive square towers, with a spacious gateway and postern in the centre, the whole being built of a fine red brick, with stone dressings, and being embattled. Over the gateway is a large room called the Record Room, because the archives of the see of Canterbury are there preserved. Spiral stone staircases lead to the apartments in the towers, which are chiefly occupied as lumber-rooms, and to the flat leaded roof, which commands an extensive view, scarcely to be equalled by any near London.

At this gate a beneficent custom of former

times is still kept up ; for here the *dole* (which properly signifies a share) immemorially given to the poor by the Archbishops of Canterbury, is distributed. This dole now consists of fifteen quartern loaves, nine stone of beef, and five shillings in halfpence, divided into three equal portions, and distributed every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, among thirty poor parishioners of Lambeth. The beef is made into broth thickened with oatmeal, divided into ten equal shares, and given, with half a loaf, a pitcher of broth, and two-pence, to as many poor persons, who are thus weekly relieved in rotation.

On the right of the first and principal court-yard is the great Hall ; which, having been demolished in Cromwell's time, was rebuilt after the Restoration by Archbishop Juxon, who ordered it to be made to resemble the

former edifice as much as possible; but, though intended to be an imitation of the Gothic style, both its architecture and ornaments are of a mixed kind. The walls are chiefly of red brick, supported by stone buttresses terminating in large balls. In the centre of the roof there is a lofty and elegant lantern-light. The interior of this hall is 93 feet in length, 38 in breadth, and upwards of 50 in height. The whole is profusely ornamented, and the inner roof, constructed with much labour, is entirely of oak. Two of the great oak tables have upon them the date 1664. "The reason," says Dr. Ducarel, the historian of this palace, "why such large halls were built in the seats of our ancient nobility and gentry was, that there might be room to exercise the generous hospitality which prevailed among our ancestors." The Arch-

bishops of Canterbury, as first in place and dignity, appear to have exercised this ancient virtue in an eminent degree.

The four galleries over the cloisters, which form a small and very plain quadrangle, contain the archiepiscopal library, which was originally founded by Archbishop Bancroft. It contains about 25,000 printed volumes, chiefly on divinity ; but is by no means deficient in works on general literature, and the collection of English history and topography is not only extensive but highly valuable. The library of manuscripts, situated over the west side of that containing the printed books, is divided into two parts ; one composed of the registers and archives of the see of Canterbury, the other of miscellaneous manuscripts, amounting together to about eleven thousand.

The Guard Chamber, which runs parallel

with the west side of the library, is a state-room, 56 feet long and $27\frac{1}{2}$ wide, and formerly contained the armour and arms used in defence of the palace. The Presence Chamber is remarkable only for the stained glass of the windows. In the great Dining Room is a series of portraits of the archbishops from Laud to Cornwallis, in which may be observed the gradual change in the clerical dress, in the articles of bands and wigs. The old Drawing Room, the next in this suite, was formerly called the Velvet Room, from being hung with red and purple velvet. The new Drawing Room, built by Archbishop Cornwallis, is a noble, well-proportioned apartment.

The Long Gallery, the erection of which is ascribed to Cardinal Pole, claims particular notice for the fine collection of portraits of primates and prelates with which it is deco-

rated. Among the most striking is that of the founder, in the splendid scarlet dress of his order.

The Chapel bears sufficient marks of antiquity to warrant an opinion of its being coeval with the period when this place first became a fixed archiepiscopal residence. It is divided into an inner and outer chapel by an elaborately carved screen. The crypt beneath the chapel is generally admitted to be the most ancient part of the palace. It consists of a series of strong stone arches, supported in the centre by a short massy column. These vaults are supposed to have been formerly used for divine worship, but they are now occupied as cellars.

The Post Room, thus named from a large post or pillar, which supports the great timbers of the roof, is part of the building called the

Lollards' Tower, and forms a kind of vestibule to the chapel. As a specimen of domestic architecture, this apartment is remarkable for the broad massy character of its walls, and a certain gloomy air, which, in buildings of this kind, is so well calculated to carry the mind back to remote ages.

The Lollards' Tower is a large pile of stone building, deriving its name from a small prison within it, that was formerly used for confining persons belonging to the religious sect called Lollards, who were persecuted as heretics. These people were the followers of Walter Lollard, a German, who lived in the early part of the fourteenth century ; and, holding nearly the same doctrines relative to the abuses of Popery as the Reformers two hundred years later, they rendered themselves peculiarly obnoxious to the high dignitaries

of the Romish Church, who resorted to the utmost severity in order to their suppression. The Archbishops Arundel and Chichely were particularly zealous in their persecution of the Lollards.

A narrow spiral stone staircase leads from the Post Room to the Lollards' prison. The entrance is a small pointed doorway of stone, barely large enough for one person to pass at a time; it has an inner and outer door, of strong oak, thickly studded with iron, and fastenings to correspond. Every part of this chamber, both sides and ceiling, is lined with oak an inch and a half thick; and to this wainscot are still fixed eight large iron rings, about breast-high. It has two very small windows narrowing outwards. On the sides of this room are parts of sentences, names, initials, and in one or two places a crucifix,

cut out with a knife or some other sharp instrument, as it is supposed, by prisoners confined here. The letters are all in the old English character, and in general so rudely formed as not to be easily recognised.

Before the Reformation, the archbishops had prisons for the punishment of offenders in matters of religion; but Queen Elizabeth frequently made this mansion a place of confinement for persons of rank who had incurred her displeasure. Not only did she commit the popish prelates Tunstall and Thirleby to the custody of the archbishop, but she sent the unfortunate Earl of Essex to be confined at Lambeth before he was removed to the Tower. It was usual for such prisoners to be kept in separate apartments, and to eat at the archbishop's table.

The gardens and grounds, which now con-

tain eighteen acres, were considerably enlarged and improved by Archbishop Moore, who caused the whole to be laid out with great taste. They contain two uncommonly fine fig-trees, planted, according to tradition, by Cardinal Pole, and trained against that part of the palace which he is said to have built, covering a space more than 50 feet in height, and 40 in breadth : the stem of the one is 28, and that of the other 21, inches in circumference. They are of the white Marseilles kind, and still bear delicious fruit. In a small private garden, on the south side of the building, there is a third tree, of the same kind, size, and age.

Lambeth Palace has been the scene of many important events. In 1381 it was attacked and plundered by the insurgents under Wat Tyler, who burned the furniture and books,

drank up the liquors, destroyed the registers and other records, and murdered Archbishop Sudbury himself. Very different were the scenes exhibited here when Archbishop Bourchier entertained Henry VII. with festivities previously to his coronation ; and this place was the residence of Catharine of Arragon and her ladies, before her marriage to his son, Henry Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry VIII. Queen Mary often visited her cousin, Cardinal Pole, in this palace, which she had caused to be furnished at her own expense for his reception. Queen Elizabeth also was a frequent visiter to the archbishops, particularly Archbishop Parker.

In the beginning of the civil troubles under Charles I. Archbishop Laud, who was supposed to be secretly favourable to Popery, and who had therefore become particularly

obnoxious to the Puritans of those days, was marked out by them for destruction. This charge originated in the following circumstance :—The windows of the chapel had been ornamented by Cardinal Morton with some fine painted glass, representing the history of man, from the creation to the day of judgment. Among the subjects was the crucifixion, a necessary part of the scriptural story. Archbishop Laud, on his coming to Lambeth, found these windows “ shameful to look on, all diversly patched, like a poor beggar’s coat,” according to his own words, and caused them to be repaired. This laudable instance of good taste was, in that age of puritanical bigotry, imputed to the prelate as a crime ; and it was alleged “ that he did repair the story of those windows by their

like in the *mass-book* ;” but this he utterly denied, affirming that he and his secretary made out the story as well as they could by the unbroken remains.

On such frivolous grounds, however, the London apprentices, excited by the factious Lilburne, in 1641 attacked Lambeth Palace, for which outrage some of the ringleaders were apprehended and one was executed. Archbishop Laud, whose life was aimed at by the rioters, was removed by desire of the king to Whitehall, but was soon sent by the parliament to the Tower, impeached, and beheaded. During his confinement his palace was converted into a prison, in which the soldiers lived in outrageous excess. His furniture was sold ; the coal and wood being reserved for those military freebooters, though

at the same time the archbishop was chilled for want of firing in the month of January in the Tower.

In 1646, two years after the execution of Archbishop Laud, the library was seized by the parliament, and given first to Sion College, and afterwards, at the suggestion of the learned Selden, to the University of Cambridge. In 1648, the palace and manor were sold by order of parliament to Thomas Scot, afterwards secretary of state to Cromwell, and Matthew Hardy, for the sum of 7073*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.* Whilst in their possession, the great hall was demolished, the chapel turned into a dancing-room, and many other dilapidations committed. The body of Archbishop Parker, which had been deposited in the chapel, on the south side of the communion table, near the spot where he had been accustomed to

pray, was torn from its resting place. "It was the vile Matthew Hardy that caused Archbishop Parker to be dug up and buried beneath a dunghill, sold the lead wherein he was inclosed, and converted the tombstone into a table for the use of his own house. But in 1661 the said Hardy was obliged, by an order of the House of Lords, to find the body and reposit it near the place where it was before buried, and also to erect a like monument at his own proper cost and charge." At one end of this monument, which is in the vestibule of the chapel, on a small brass plate, is a Latin inscription by Archbishop Sancroft, narrating this flagrant violation of the sepulchre in strong terms of abhorrence.

On the restoration of Charles II. Lambeth Palace reverted to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The great hall was rebuilt by Arch-

bishop Juxon, and the library was recovered by his successor.

The last outrage to which this place has been exposed was in the year 1780, when a factious rabble, headed by Lord George Gordon, in their infatuated zeal against Popery, were possessed with the idea that Archbishop Cornwallis, on account of his having been appointed one of the commissioners for giving the royal assent to the Quebec Bill, was a favourer of the Roman Catholics. On the 6th of June they arrived from their grand rendezvous in St. George's Fields, and with shouts of "No Popery!" attacked the gates, which, however, as notice of their intention had reached the palace, were properly secured. The archbishop and his family had been prevailed upon to leave Lambeth by a circuitous route for London, whence, being still appre-

hensive for their safety, they removed to Lord Hillsborough's seat in Kent, where they remained till the riots were over. Meanwhile a detachment of soldiers was sent to guard the place; and the Northampton militia arriving on the 8th of June, were quartered here, in strict garrison duty, till the 11th of August; both officers and men being entertained at the archbishop's expense.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL, a noble institution for the reception of lunatics, stands in the extensive parish of Lambeth. Its original site in Moorfields having been found too contracted for the due accommodation of the patients, a

spacious piece of ground in St. George's Fields was obtained ; and a building erected upon it of such extent and magnificence, that it might be taken for a palace, rather than an edifice for any charitable purpose. With the grounds for the exercise of the patients, it occupies twelve acres.

The first stone of this structure was laid in 1812, and as soon as it was finished, the original building in Moorfields was pulled down. The front, about 570 feet in length, consists of a centre and wings ; and is adorned by a portico of six Ionic columns, supporting a pediment, on which are the arms of the united kingdom — a lantern cupola rising from the middle of the building, which is four stories high, and chiefly constructed of brick. It was designed by Mr. Lewis, and cost nearly £100,000.

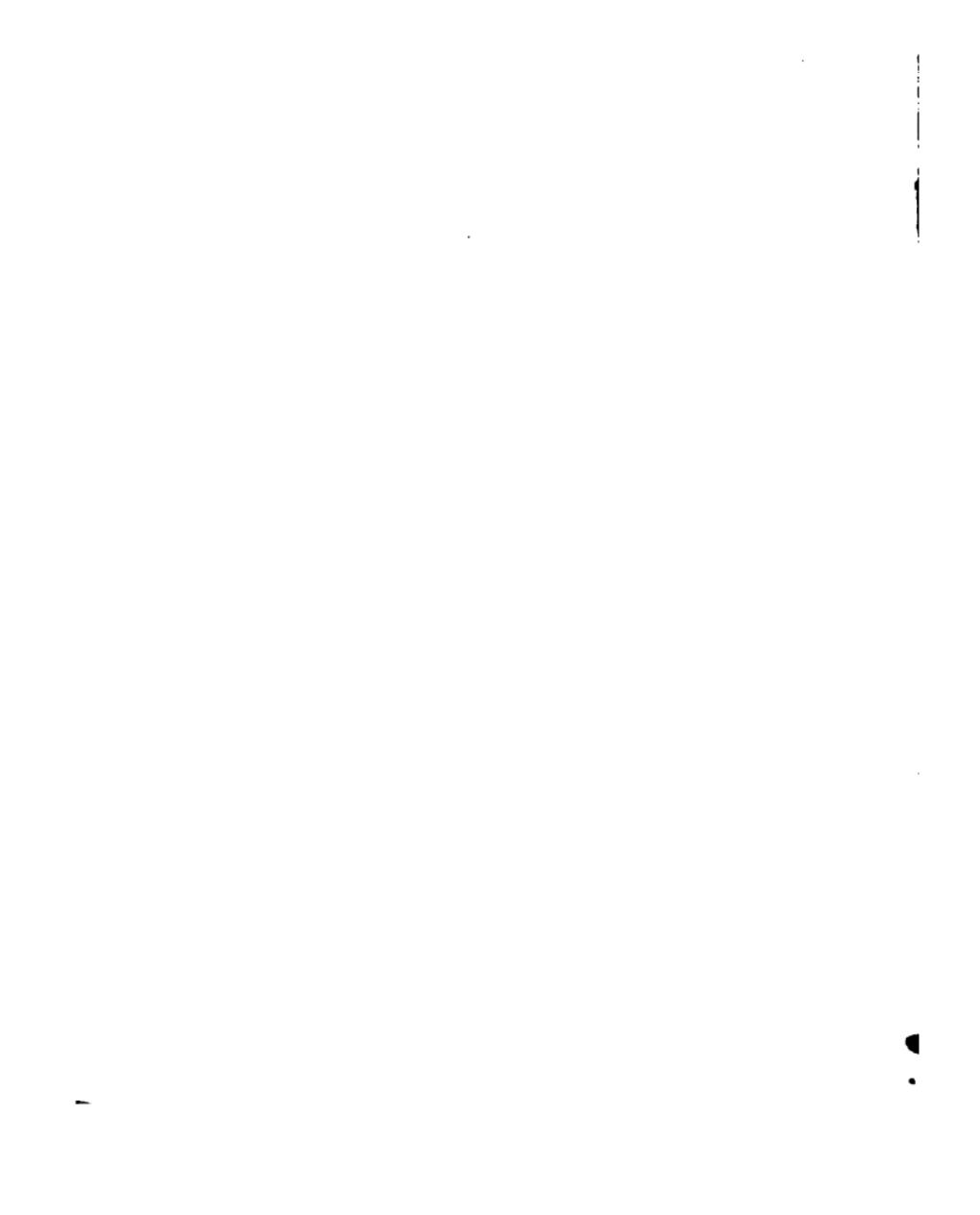
In the hall are the statues of Raving and Melancholy Madness which were formerly placed on the piers of the gateway of the old Hospital. They were executed by Caius Gabriel Cibber, father of Colley Cibber, the actor and dramatist, whence Pope in his *Dunciad* calls them “Cibber’s brazen brainless brothers.” This alliterative satire, however, contributed more to extend the popular fame of those works than to degrade the person against whom it was directed. Vertue relates that the figure of Melancholy Madness was copied from Oliver Cromwell’s gigantic porter, who became insane and was confined in Bethlem Hospital.

This building contains accommodation for 200 patients, exclusively of about 60 others, who have been confined for criminal acts, and the charges for whose support are defrayed

by government. Here, among others, were confined John Hatfield and Margaret Nicholson, for attempts on the life of King George III, and here the latter died in 1828, between eighty and ninety years old, after a captivity of forty-two years. The building contains also apartments for a steward, apothecary, matron, keepers, and servants.

According to the general orders of the committee, in whom the government of this institution is vested, all poor lunatics are to be admitted excepting such as are afflicted with palsy, epilepsy, and some other complaints, or are become weak through age or long illness. All admissible patients, excepting those from parishes and public offices, upon giving security to be taken away when required, and finding their own clothes, are admitted without fee or expense. Parishes and public

offices pay 1*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* for each patient, and enter into the same engagements; and incurables pay 3*l.* 10*s.* deposit, and 5*s.* a week, besides finding their own clothing. Those incurables who are sent by poor friends, pay the same deposit, and 2*s.* 6*d.* a week, besides finding their clothing. When a patient, after sufficient trial, is judged incurable, he is dismissed from the Hospital; and if he is pronounced dangerous either to himself or others, his name is entered in a book, that he may be received in turn among the incurables maintained in the house, whenever a vacancy shall happen. Such is the comfortable subsistence, kind treatment, and able medical aid, which the patients here meet with, that it is calculated that nearly two out of three are restored to reason. The annual income of this institution is about 18,000*l.*



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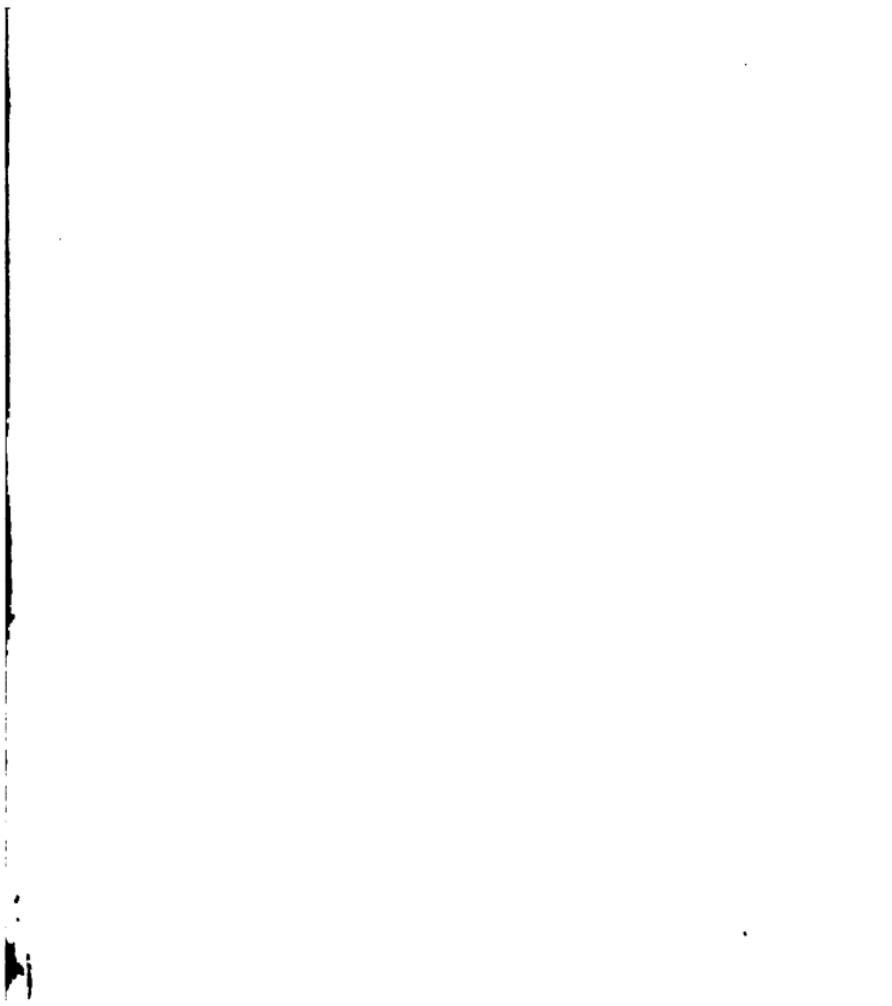
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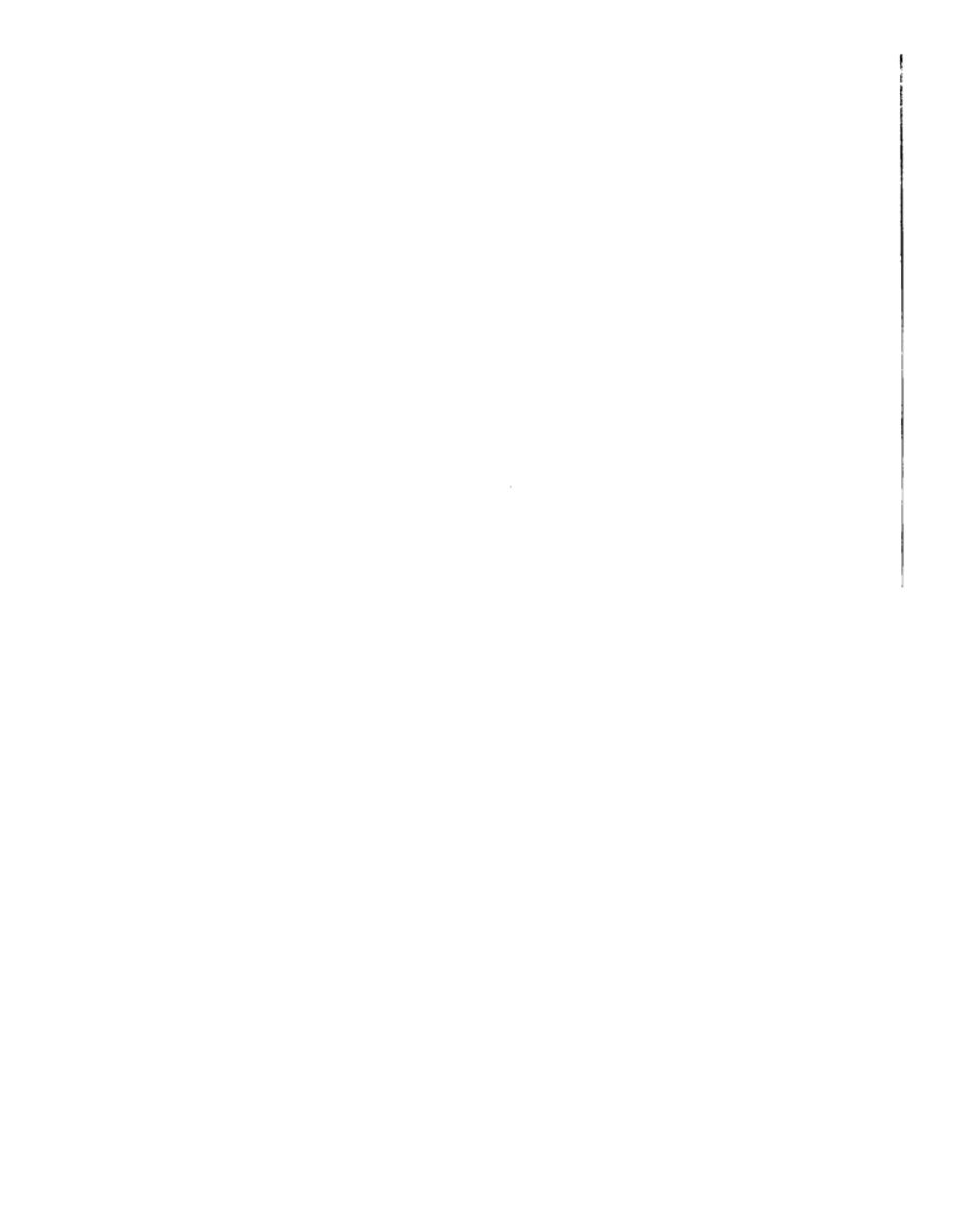
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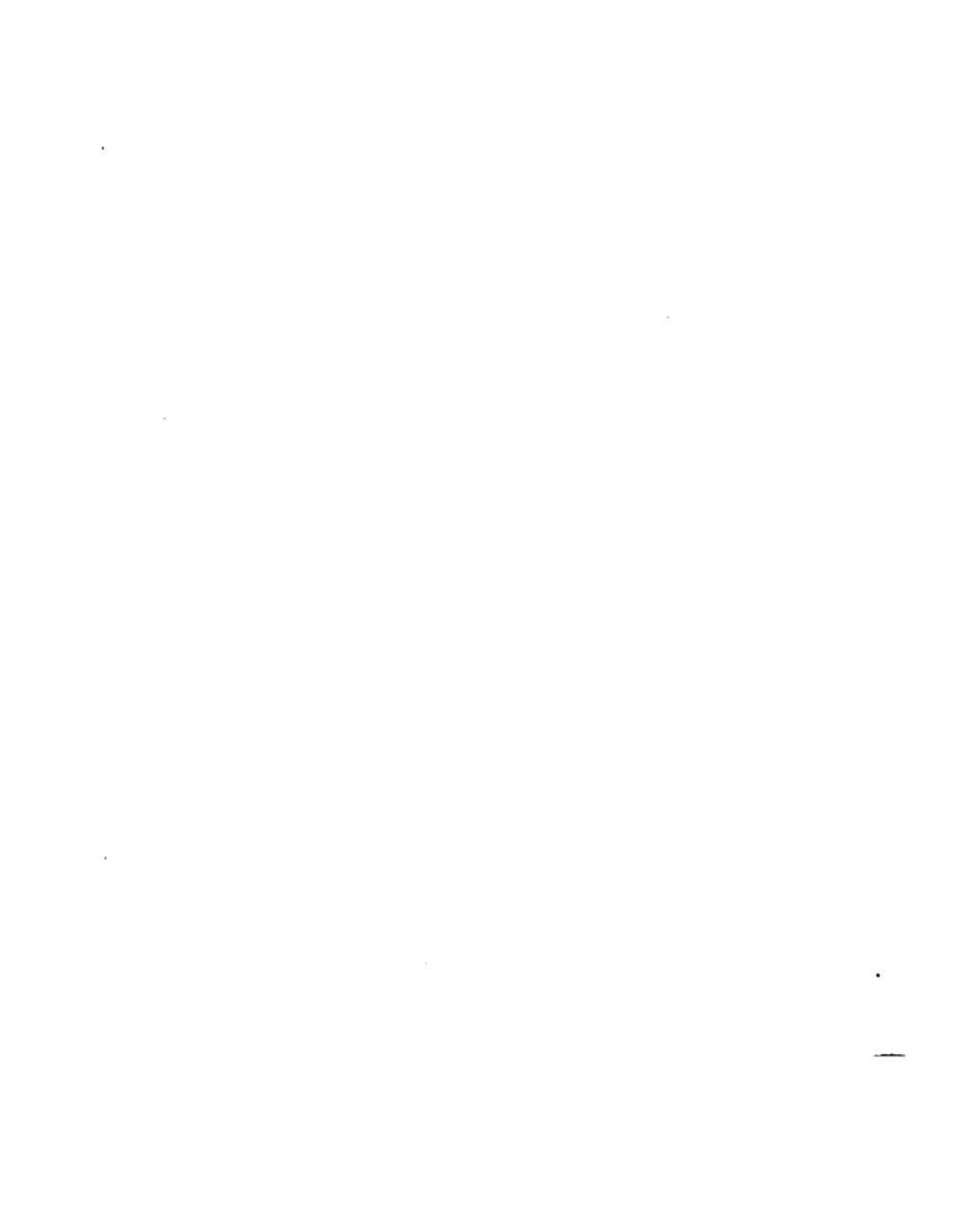
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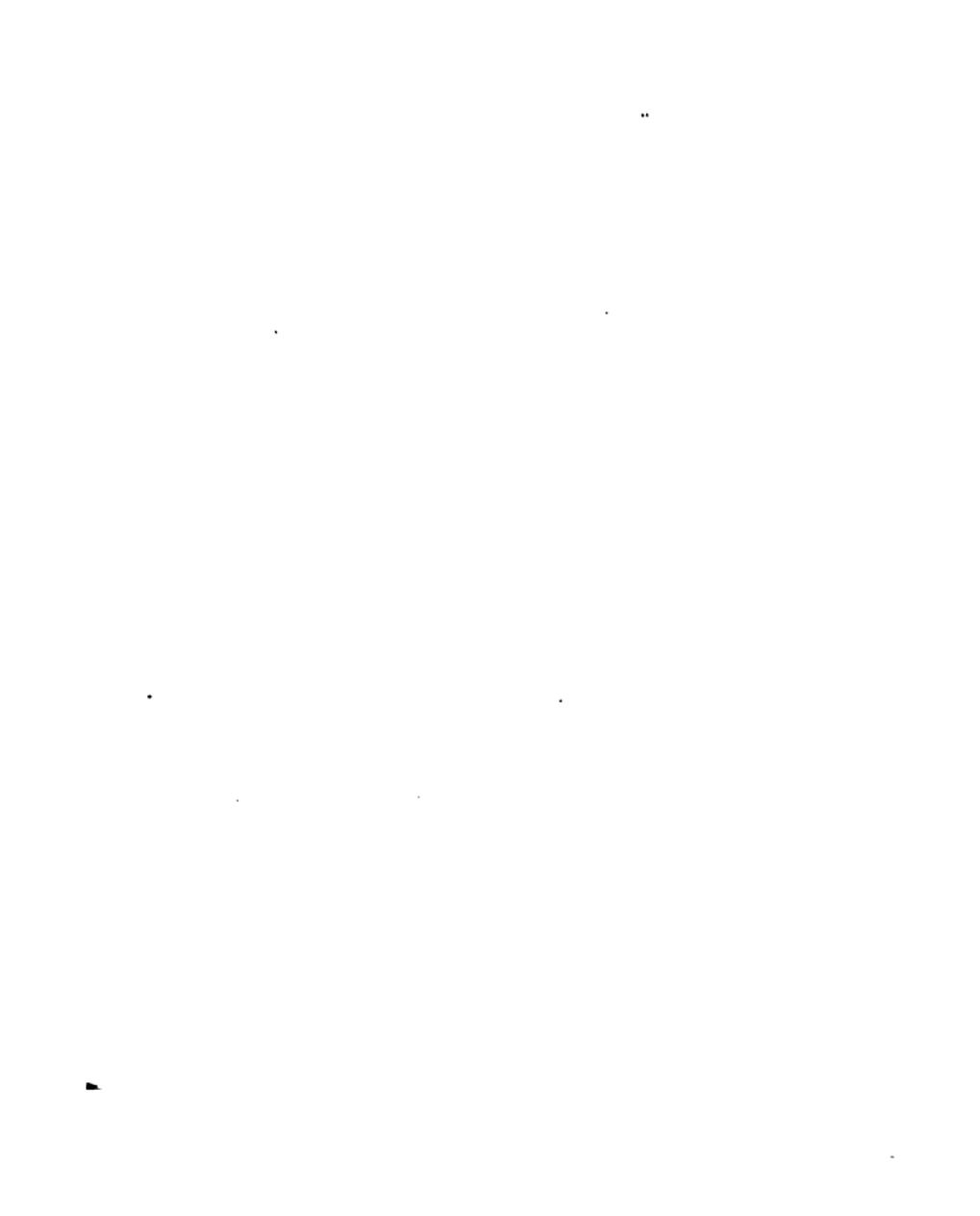
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